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Full sized reference on the up-armoured Humvee serving in Iraq

A BUG'S LIFE

Luciano Rodriguez builds Tamiya's tiny VW Beetle



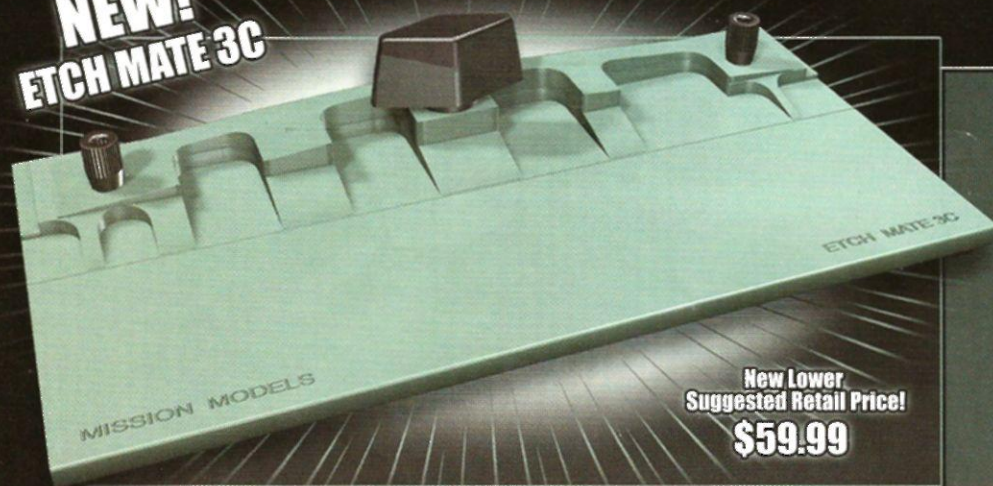
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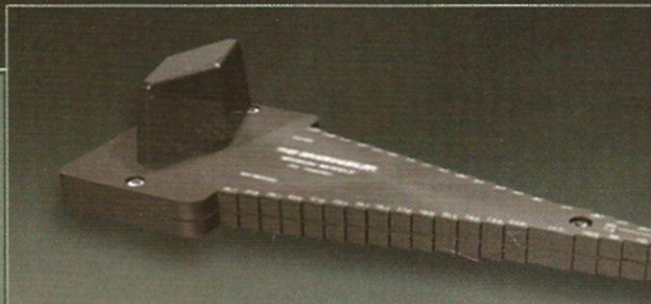
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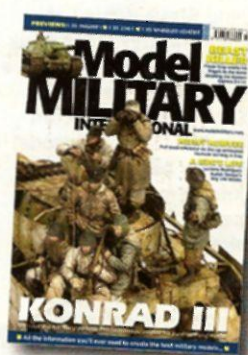


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Ralph Zwilling continues his series of reports on modern US equipment. This time it's the up-armoured Humvee



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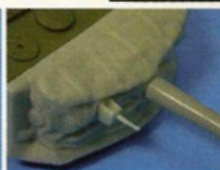
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ACCURATE ARMOUR

The guys from Port Glasgow have been keeping busy with some great new subjects, including much needed updates for the Bronco Comet. Other highlights include:

1:35
Hesco bastions A111
Concrete barriers large and small (Jersey)
Landrover XD Op Telic patrol vehicle LR008
Pinzgauer Op Telic patrol vehicle K081
Stainless steel Razor wire D42
1:48
David Brown tractor WWII K48006
Standard Tilly K48005
For more information check out
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ACADEMY NOMINATIONS FOR 2007

As we go to print, here is the latest list of releases for 2007 from Academy including a small scale Dragon Wagon, and a second version of the M551 Sheridan - let's hope it has been corrected in the process. We're sure the M7 will be a welcome addition to supersede Italeri's ageing rendition of the Priest. As we get more info and review samples we will keep you up to date.

12210	1:48 CH-46 Vietnam
13408	1:72 M3 Half Track
13409	1:72 M6 Dragon Wagon
13208	1:35 M551 Sheridan Gulf War
13210	1:35 M7 Priest



AMTRAC

With news of AFV Club's latest incarnation of the LVTP-5 we couldn't resist including these photos of this massive amphibious vehicle in Taiwanese service. The eye-catching colour scheme bears a remarkable resemblance to the Urban scheme seen on British armour stationed in Berlin before the wall came down - certainly a pattern to test one's painting skills on. As we hear more we will keep you posted.



EMAIL BLACKMAIL

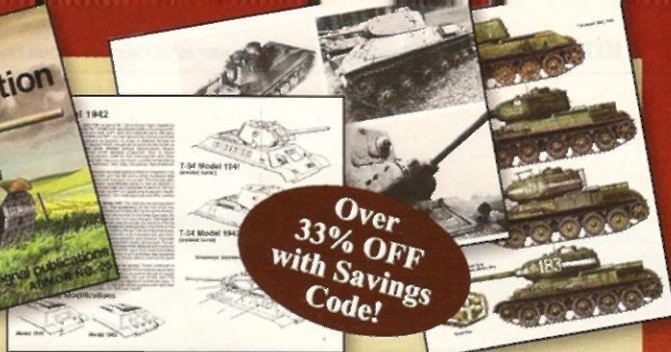
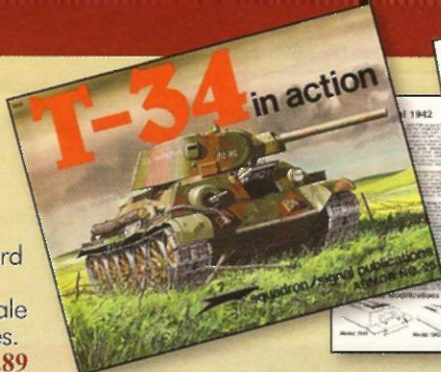
Don't you just hate it when someone takes a photo when you are unaware and even worse when they send it in to a magazine? Well here's a classic of author and master modeller Mark Bannerman supposedly grabbing forty winks after arriving from Canada to attend last year's Euro Militaire. Well that's the excuse Mark gave for falling asleep with a copy of Model Military on his chest. Personally we're guessing it was one of our articles that sent him off!

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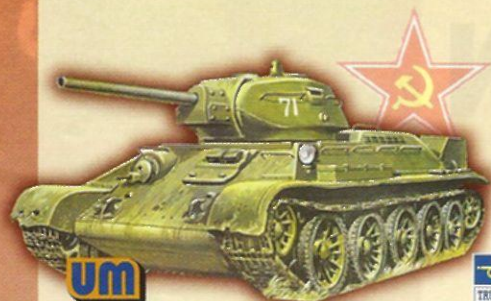
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BUCKET LOADS A FUN

We take a look at the Tonka Toy for armour modellers...

Packaged in a sturdy carton with an inspirationally painted model on the lid, we get a box full of beautifully cast and amazingly well detailed cream resin parts to make up this unusual but most welcome vehicle.

This kit is marketed as the Military (NATO) version, which features an enclosed cab with the option of fitting the extra armour often seen on these machines that are operating in many of the world's hot-spots. Another thoughtful inclusion is the option to fit the loader with either the earth moving bucket or the fork attachment used when loading and manoeuvring pallets etc.

The colour photo instruction sheet is one of the best set of instructions I have ever seen for a resin kit. The photos are all very clear complemented by useful captions, which offer handy tips and graphic overlays to clarify the bucket arm assembly. To me this shows that Mig Productions have really put a lot of thought into producing this kit and also making it builder friendly, unlike some resin kits I have made in the past.

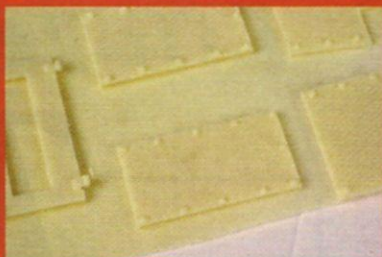
The main difference between this and the civil version marketed by Mig Productions is that the cab is the enclosed type, whereas the



other version has an open cab with no glazing whatsoever. The latter type would be commonly seen in hotter climates. This version can still be painted in civilian colours by simply leaving off the extra armour parts that

surround the cab. I'm sure this will prove a great subject for fans of modern armour wanting something a little different. Distributed in the UK by www.creativemodels.co.uk

The Editor



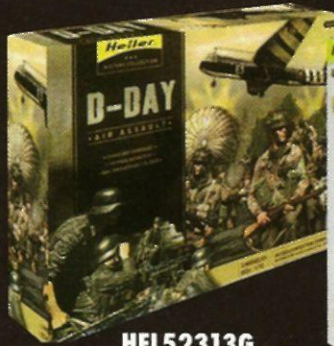
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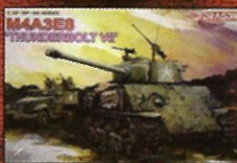
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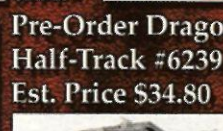
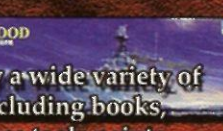
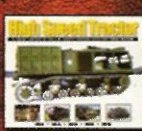
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TOWARD THE REICHSTAG

Justo Mira describes in brief his amazing 1:72 Berlin diorama. Even in this scale it's BIG!

The diorama represents the arrival of the Red Army into the centre of Berlin via the Molke bridge, which was the only intact bridge over the river Spree at the time. The scene depicts two ISU-152 self propelled guns and an IS-2 crossing this bridge, the IS-2 brings up the rear carrying a group of infantry tank riders in the midst of celebrating their victory over the Third Reich. The German defenders have realised it is the end, and have begun to surrender before being formed into endless columns for the march eastward. The barricades and last ditch defences around the bridge indicate that this point was the final obstacle the Soviet forces would have to overcome before entering the heart of the Reich.

DIORAMA CONSTRUCTION

The base was built-up using chip board and expanded polystyrene. These materials are cheap to buy and are perfect for adding height to a diorama, the other advantage is they can be fixed in place with ordinary wood glue.

The bridge was constructed using balsa wood, but this time the wood was lined with sheets of plastic card. The plastic card has then scribbled and textured

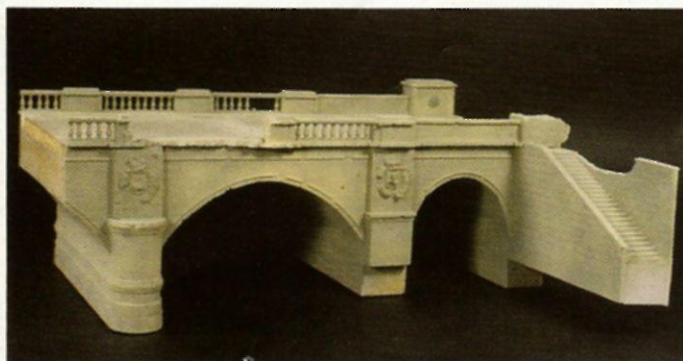
with model filler and liquid styrene cement to imitate the stonework of the real bridge. Detailing and decoration of the bridge are carried out using many different sizes of plastic card strip, and the shields are created from a master using plaster to make copies. The handrail was made from guardrail parts designed for ship modelling. The lion was detailed with epoxy putty on a rather poorly moulded lion that I bought in a jewellery shop, a copy was made from the detailed original to use at the other end of the bridge.

THE APARTMENT BLOCK

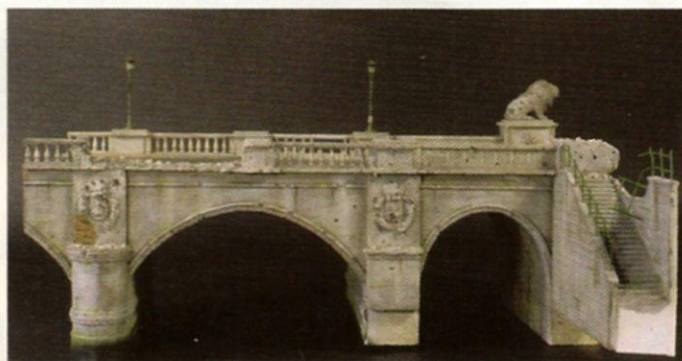
The exterior parts of the building were built-up using thick plastic card sheeting, from these parts I made a mould and then cast copies using modelling plaster. Once the plaster copies had set I started to add the battle damage to these parts. I find plaster is perfect for this as it is easy to work with and crumbles in the same way real brick and concrete will. The interior of the building was built up from plywood for strength. The areas of moss and algae were created by using crushed green foam available from Woodland Scenics. Woodland Scenics products are normally available from all good model railway shops. ▶







Here we can see the bridge construction has been completed - now the fun part of the painting can begin. The base colour used was mixed from Tamiya Japanese Army Grey and Flat White.



The completed bridge ready to be installed on the diorama. Careful painting and weathering has really brought the bridge to life when compared to the photo to the left, where it has only received a base coat.

BRIDGE PAINTING

Tamiya XF-55 was chosen for the base colour for the bridge stonework, this colour was applied using an airbrush, as trying to paint large structures like the bridge and building would take forever if done with a brush.

Washes were made from Vallejo Acrylic Black 824 and Burnt Umber 821, applied separately or in combination, according to the area. Later I lacquered the whole bridge with Micro Scale flat varnish. The Bridge stone work was dry-brushed using Humbrol 95. To finish off the weathering on the bridge I made some dirt effects with mixes of black and oxide coloured oil paints, these were washed on using white spirits. Finally some of the crushed green foam was applied around joints in the stonework and areas that would be in shade most of the time.

DEBRIS

The rubble and debris, including pieces of wood, iron girders, furniture, pieces of the tank and oil drums all had to be painted with the same care as the rest of the diorama. Once all of these tiny components had been painted and weathered, a combination of Mig Productions' earth coloured pigments, small stones and pieces

of crushed brick were fixed to the diorama. Once all the elements were fixed in place to the base, Tamiya Earth XF-52 and Buff XF-57 was then carefully misted over the groundwork to help visually tie all the elements together and give the groundwork a natural and realistic dusty look.

VEHICLES AND FIGURES

For this diorama I used eight vehicles, including an IS-2, two ISU-152 and the 76.2mm anti-tank gun, all produced by PST. I only added some minor details to these in the form of grab handles and lifting hooks from fine copper wire. New weld seams were created using a pyrograph tool, this tool is essentially a very fine tipped low

temperature soldering iron, which is perfect for melting plastic and simulating weld seams. Lastly, very thin Karaya cable from Accurate Armour was used for their heavy tow cables. The Horch ambulance and the Gaz are produced in resin by Alby. The Panther is a conversion of

the Revell kit, which involved scratchbuilding a complete engine bay. The partially destroyed Opel Blitz has been converted from the Esci kit, and lastly the burnt out Opel Blitz has been completely scratchbuilt from plastic card and brass sheet.

The thirty figures used in the diorama are a combination of commercially available figures and conversions. The converted figures were needed when a certain pose I was after wasn't available from a kit figure.

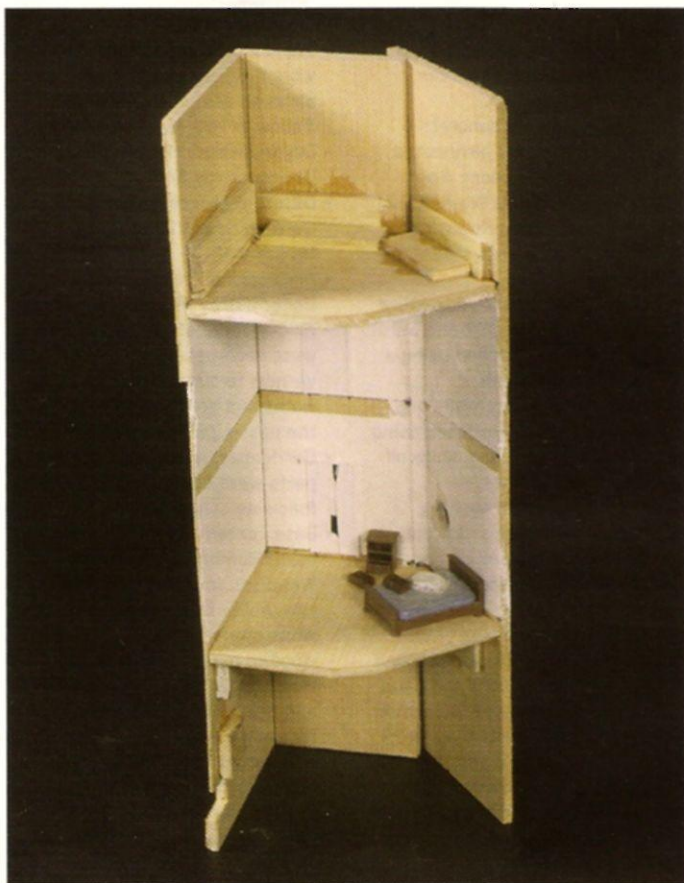
The figures used were as follows:

- Revell (2)
- Esci (4)
- Mig Productions (2)
- Milicast (7)
- Almogavares (7)
- Preiser (4)
- MMS (1)
- Alemany Miniatures (4) ▶

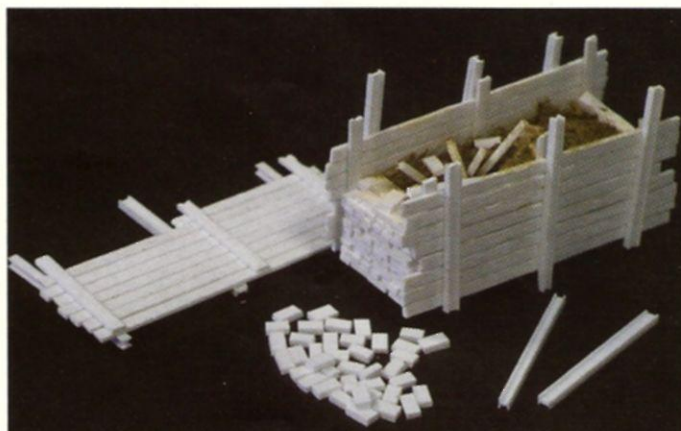
"The lion was detailed with epoxy putty on a rather poorly moulded lion that I bought in an imitation jewellery shop"



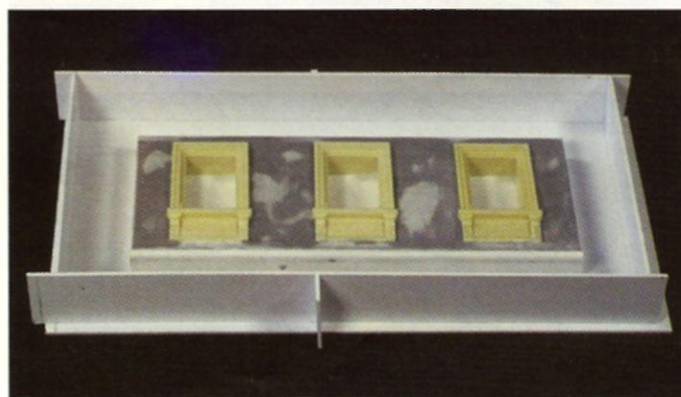
At this stage the basic layout of the diorama has been finalised and the vehicles have been placed on temporarily. This is an essential part of building any diorama to constantly check it is all balanced but still tells a story.



The building's interior section has been built-up using balsa wood to create the basic form, before detailing with plastic card and thin strips of bass wood for the damaged flooring.



The barricade sections at the end of the bridge were built entirely from Evergreen styrene strip and I beam section. Careful painting and weathering will bring these to life.



Plastic card moulds were made using resin window frames inserts, which allowed the author to cast as many copies as needed in plaster. This was by far the simplest way to produce the nine identical castings to make the frontages of this apartment block.



The Burnt out Opel Blitz has been completely scratch built by the author using plastic card, strip and thin brass sheet.



The painted and weathered Opel ready to be placed on the diorama, weathering powders such as those from Mig Productions are perfect for simulating a sooty and rusty finish.



The PST ISU-152s received some detailing in the form of improved weld seams and copper wire grab handles. Of note are the ultra fine wires used for the horn and headlight cables.



The completed ISU-152. The author's modifications have added extra finesse to the basic kit.



The IS-2 (kit no.72002) came from the Belarus manufacturer PST. The overturned Horch ambulance came from the resin manufacturer Alby.



It is hard to believe these figures are only 2.5 cm or one inch tall when the level of painting and detail is as good as this. Note these figures are about three times larger in this photo than in reality.

This image, taken using a telephoto lens, has compressed the perspective and really brought to life the story of this amazing diorama.



PAINTING

To summarise the painting I have listed the key colours and the method of application.

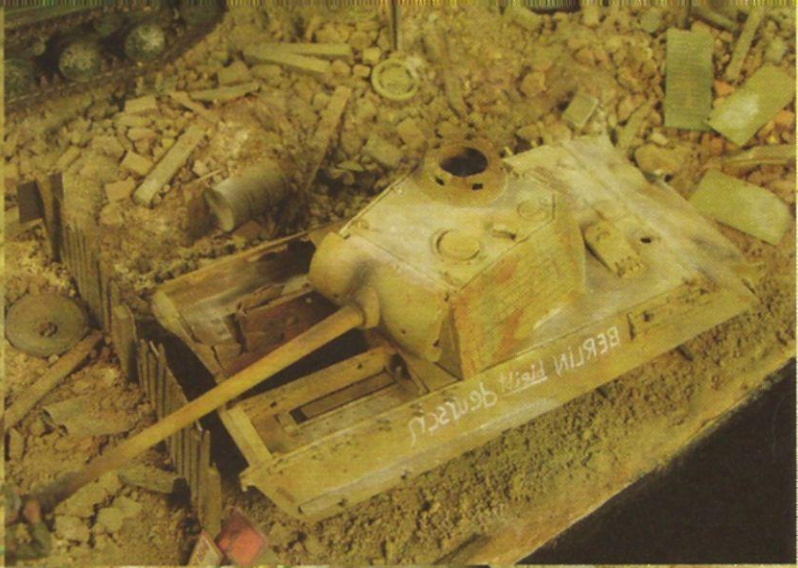
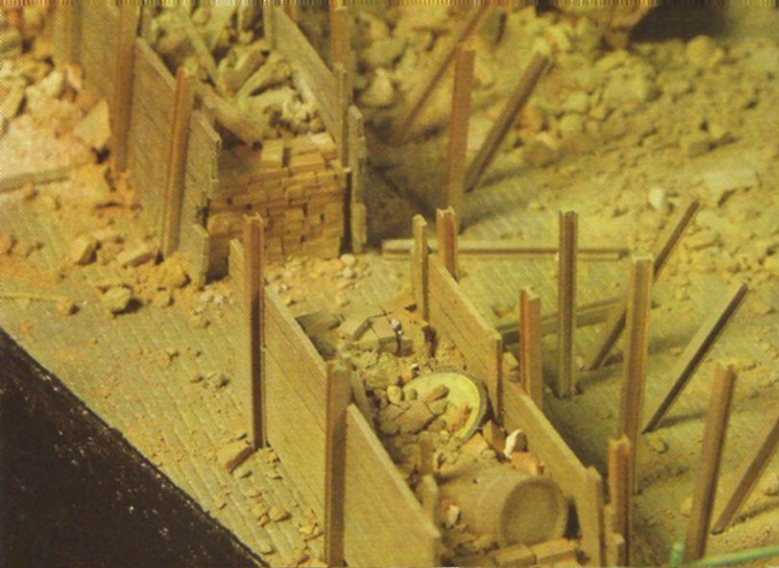
- Base colour for all concrete coloured areas was airbrushed using Tamiya Japanese Army Grey XF-14 and Flat White XF-2.
- Shading was completed with an airbrush using Vallejo Model Air Black 057.
- For the colour washes a mixture of Model Air Black 057 and burnt Umber 040 was applied using a broad flat paintbrush.
- The concrete bridge, walls and building was all drybrushed using Humbrol White 34 and white oil paint mixed together.
- For any dirt effects such as streaks, raw umber and burnt umber were used and blended with white spirits and a soft flat broad brush.
- Brickwork painting was completed using Vallejo Hull Red 985, Light Brown 929 and Sand Yellow 916. The bricks were then drybrushed using Humbrol Brick Red 70, Leather 62 and Sand 63. Finally washes of Model Color White 951 thinned with water was used to accentuate the mortar between the bricks.
- The posters were reduced photocopies of Verlinden posters set available in 1:35.
- Window frames were made from with Evergreen plastic card and strip, then painted in Vallejo Flat Green 968, before being drybrushed using Model Color Olive Green 967.

GROUNDWORK COLOURS

- The cobblestone road sections were first base coated with an airbrush using Tamiya Dark Yellow XF-60 and Buff XF-57.
- Drybrushing 1: Humbrol Matt Uniform Grey 111
- Different stones with Vallejo German Grey 995 and Burnt Umber 941
- Drybrushing 2: Humbrol Matt Uniform Grey 111 and Matt White 34
- Finally some of the cobblestones were drybrushed with gloss varnish to suggest both leaking water and polished stones from the passing of constant traffic.
- Barricades, trunks and all wooden parts were completed using the following colours:
- Base coated with an airbrush using Humbrol Matt Natural Wood 110, followed by washes raw umber oil paint thinned with white spirits. To drybrush all the wooden parts a combination of Humbrol Ochre 83, Khaki Drill 72 and Brown Yellow 94 was used for each piece of wood the tone was varied to add some visual interest, this stopped the wood looking all exactly the same. ■

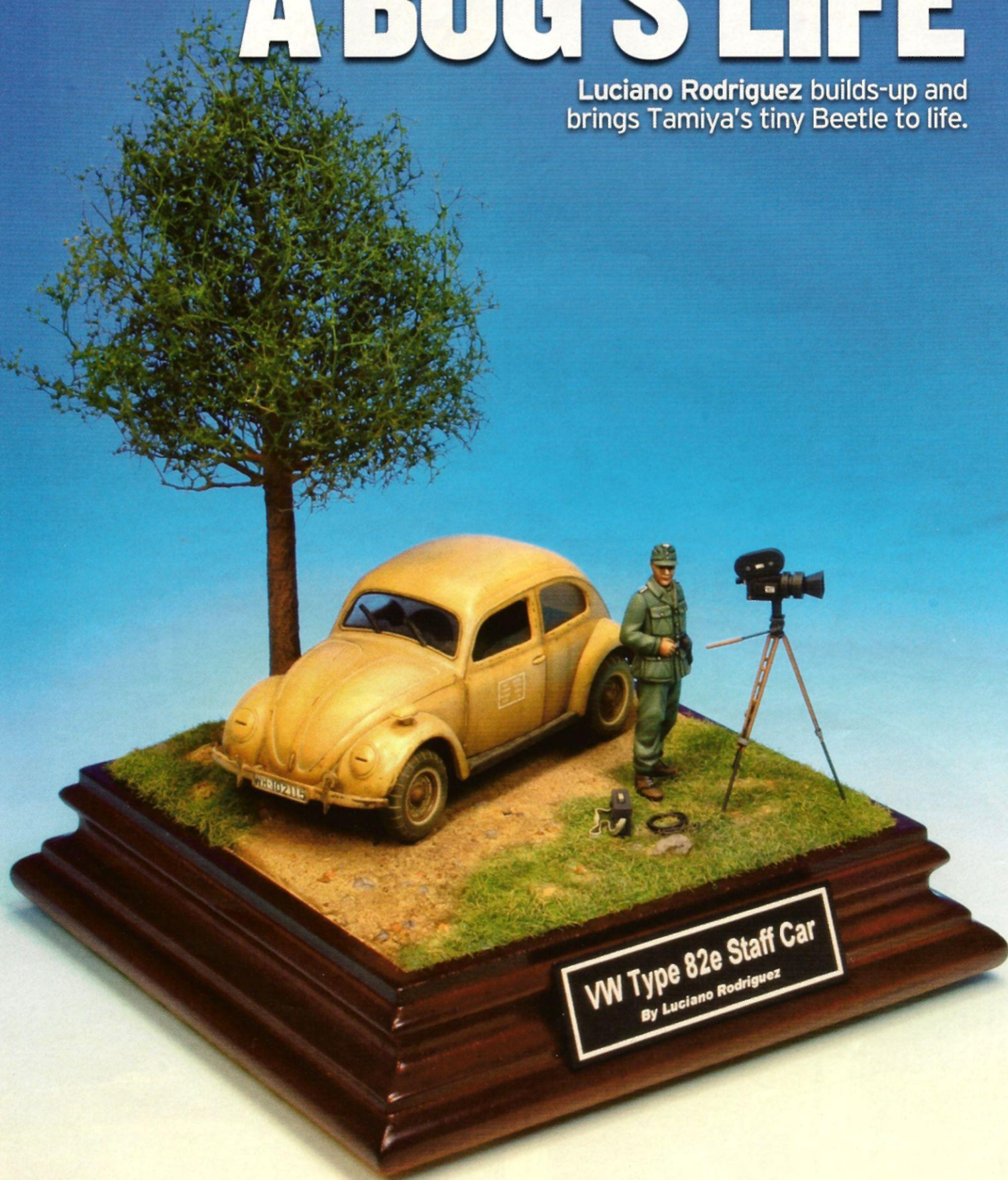
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Miguel Jimenez for introducing me to Justo at last year's Euro Militaire and enabling us to feature this amazing diorama in Model Military International. With any luck we will be featuring Justo's second and equally spectacular Cherbourg diorama in the next issue. (The Editor)



A BUG'S LIFE

Luciano Rodriguez builds-up and brings Tamiya's tiny Beetle to life.



The first time I saw this lovely little VW Käfer (Beetle) I pictured in my mind the classic image of a desert vehicle so widespread in some publications and reproduced in scale many times before. So when I got this kit, I knew I wanted to build one from the North African campaign, and it was at this point that I got involved in a discussion on a web forum dedicated to quarter scale modelling. I realized that it seemed the Type 82e didn't ever see service in North Africa as I had expected.

As far as my research went, I was not able to find any written or photographic evidence of desert Beetles, and could only see a shipping note for one Kommanderwagen (4WD Type 87) between Musaid and Bardia, but could not find definitive proof of the use of the Type 82e by desert troops, to my surprise.

Anyway, a number of vehicles intended for the African campaign were diverted elsewhere. The remaining stocks of vehicles could not be shipped due to the defeat of the Afrika Korps in May of 1943. Southern Italy and Russia presented similar terrain and weather conditions in the summer especially, so the use of tropical equipment, including the Continental Kronprinz desert balloon tyres, would have been appropriate, so I kept my hopes up to see my Beetle remain in desert trim as I had originally pictured in my mind.

THE KIT

This little bug is excellent and is every bit as good as the rest of the 1:48 range from Tamiya. It is specially appreciable Tamiya is releasing kits that do not exist in its 1:35 range, it's also really noticeable this one is useful to both military and aviation modellers alike, an exclusive property not many kits have nowadays in my honest opinion.

ASSEMBLY

The clever parts design makes this kit really easy to assemble in a couple of hours. Moulding is really fine and parts contain hardly any mould seams. Probably the most complicated and delicate task is to carefully remove a very thin seam along the rounded bodyshell. This should be done with great care.

COMPLETING THE MODEL

The only thing left to do was to add the transparent parts to the model. To give it more personality, I decided to leave both door windows down. For that, I first cut out the windows from the transparent dome part, and these were then replaced with two thin transparent styrene strips glued to the inner door panels.

The only thing left to do was to dust all the transparent parts, dust was simply added by brush painting matt dull cote. To replicate the arcs left by the windscreen wipers small semi circular segments were cut from masking tape using a compass cutter before the dull cote was applied.

IS THAT ALL?

It is true to say, this tiny vehicle is not that important by itself, and although it was really enjoyable to make, I strongly believe modellers can always make something else to turn our models into interesting subjects with a meaning. As for me, the best way to enhance the value of a single model is to display it on a base and try to transmit something more to the viewer if possible. That is easier than most people think much of the time.

THE DISPLAY BASE

The ground was simply made up over a coloured square wooden base. With plaster simple terrain shapes were formed and while plaster is still fresh, a thin coat of white glue fixed small stones and fine sand spread with the help of a piece of mesh. Once dried,



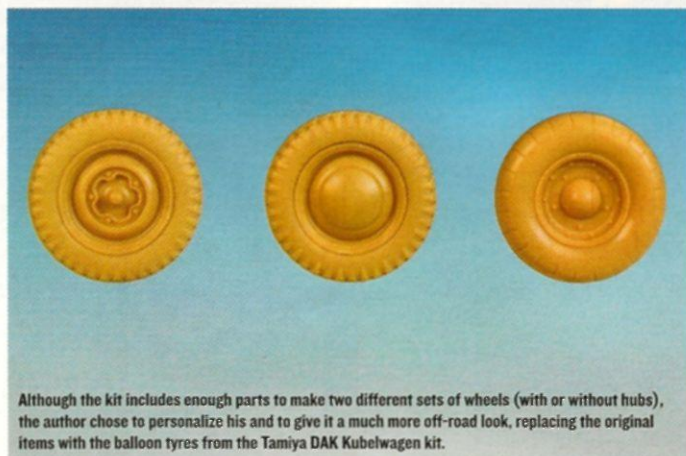
For rounded shapes and general sanding, it is best to use a flexible sanding pad or cloth backed abrasive such as Micro-Mesh, which will conform to the curved surfaces.



For the rounded inner corners of the windows, a small round file is perfect for keeping the original curve in good condition.



Complicated shapes and deep joints between surfaces, which contain mould seams are best tackled with the edge of a piece of fine sandpaper.



Although the kit includes enough parts to make two different sets of wheels (with or without hubs), the author chose to personalize his and to give it a much more off-road look, replacing the original items with the balloon tyres from the Tamiya DAK Kubelwagen kit.



To clean-up any remaining plastic from the sprue attachment point, a fine toothed flat file is ideal. Make sure the file has very fine teeth and use gently to avoid scoring the plastic.



1: Pure desert yellow is airbrushed as the base colour with a gloss finish. By just adding white to the mix, both the rounded shapes of this vehicle and areas which are supposed to be dusty can be highlighted during this early painting stage. Believe it or not, every one of the subtle effects or techniques will be noticeable on the completed model even if on their own don't seem to make much of a difference when being applied.



2: Only a few markings are required for this anonymous vehicle. The number plates came from a mix of the decals provided in the kit, the left door service chart came from the author's spare decals inventory. Make sure the areas to receive any decals have been glossed first and to really replicate the painted on look setting solutions are a must.



3: With Vallejo Acrylics, a few details are painted in different colours by brush. Tyres and lower side fenders are dark grey, rear lights are red, and exhaust is primed in red brown.



4: With diluted flat black enamel, all details are profiled around and all recessed lines are darkened. Thanks to the smooth glossy surface, the wash flows easily and because the base colours are in acrylics the enamel wash will not attack the base coat.



5: With a red brown and flat black dark mix and a pointed brush, small chips and scratches can be added specially on those more exposed areas, such as the bumpers or fenders. Very fine scratches can be added along the whole body as well, but on a vehicle like this one, in my opinion it is important to be always moderate with this kind of damage effects.



6: On plain and light base colours, filters can be added to vary the tone of certain panels or the entire finish of the base colour. In this case the author has used flat brown and olive green diluted enamels.



7: Mig Productions light dust and beach sand pigments were applied with the help of enamel thinners. On a model of this size, not much pigment is needed to help convey a dusty appearance.



8: In order to break up the plain dusty look and to create a higher contrast, some darker stains are painted with diluted acrylics. With a dark mix of red brown and flat black, some streaks are painted on the body sides, and some extra weathering has been added to the wheel hubs too.



9: To weather the wheels, a dust wash was applied by soaking each of them with diluted Tamiya acrylic buff over several applications. To do this the wheels must be kept horizontal and stable during the drying period, as this stops the wash pooling in one area.



◀ synthetic grass was glued on using super glue, and the whole thing was painted carefully by brush with acrylics.

To make the small tree, the trunk was made from a thin wooden stick textured with wood paste for restoring furniture's. The branches came from dry plants, and are placed on position one by one. This takes time, but is the only way to achieve a reasonable appearance. Once dried the joints between branches and log are also covered by a light coat of diluted wood paste by brush to help blend in the joins. With acrylics paints leaves are painted in various shades of green by airbrush and trunk was brush painted in using brown acrylics.

THE FIGURE

At times, groundwork and a vehicle alone are not enough to bring a scene to life, so I needed someone who can become the star of this story. It is a fact there are not many figures available in this scale unlike the more popular 1:35, so I was forced to modify one of the available figures with hopes to get something unique and original at same time. Using an Armour Modelling figures as a base, I sculpted with Tamiya Epoxy Putty (quick type) a lot of new details to turn one tank crewman into one average infantryman, including

modifying the jacket collar, pockets, belt, and some general shapes on his back and trousers, the trickiest part was to sculpt a new right hand for his new relaxed pose.

Once the sculpting was complete, the whole figure was painted with Vallejo acrylics. The previous sculpting work can be now brought to life by painting some new folds in the clothing using the tricky 3D effect, where the highlights and shadows are built up using successively darker and lighter shades in finer stripes. This effect exaggerates natural daylight falling on ridges and creases.

THE MOVIE CAMERA

At this point with all the previous elements out of the way, I started thinking what to do to and how to visually tie them all together. At this point I knew something was missing but couldn't quite put my finger on it. I then recalled a beautiful work I saw a couple of years ago where the modeller had included a movie camera into his diorama. After doing some research and getting some information about vintage cameras, the movie camera and the hand battery case were made up from styrene sheet and strip. Painting was completed with acrylics, lastly little data stencil would add the finishing touch. ▶



The trunk of tree was made from a wooden stick textured with wood filler designed for restoring furniture.

An Armour Modelling tank crewman was converted using Tamiya's Epoxy Putty. The jacket collar, pockets and belt were all re-sculpted, together with a new right hand.





Due to the clever way Tamiya has designed the kit, the interior painting and weathering can be completed fully before the chassis and bodyshell need to be joined.



Tlic author scratchbuilt the movie camera and hand battery case from plastic card and strip. Painting was completed using acrylics and small data stencils added the finishing touch.



Note how effective the dusty windscreen looks. This was created by cutting out semi-circular masks before applying matt varnish with a brush.

I had all I needed to complete this story finally.

CONCLUSION

A truly enjoyable model, full of possibilities for quarter scale modellers and perfect proof that making models is only limited to one's imagination. For me it just goes to show it doesn't have to be a tank or armoured vehicle to make a great subject and a fun project to work on. •

Modelspec

1/48 Tamiya Volkswagen Type 82E staff car. MMV No.1
Kit No. 32531

Materials

Injection moulded sand coloured styrene, one-piece transparent dome, waterslide decals.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics:
XFZ Flat White, 1(F9) Desert Yellow
Tamiya Enamels:
XF1 Flat Black. KHO Flat Brown. XFSS Olive Green
Hiji Productions Pigments:
PSO,? Light Dust, PSO(S) Beach Sand
Vallejo Model Color Acrylics:
346 Mahogany Brown. BT1 Leather Brown.
374 Tan Earth, 920 Field Grey, 950 Flat Black.
955 Flesh, 957 Flat Red, 981 Orange Brown,
932 Cavalry Brown. 991 Dark Grey

Accessories used

Armonr Modelling "Wittmann & his tank crew" figures

Q Easy assembly build and perfect fit.

Q Rolling toy type wheels.

Available from

Tamiya: All good model shops
Armonr Modelling figures are distributed by Model
Kasten: Armonr Distribution
Vallejo: Parebellm

Rating 0

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7131 TSR2 INTERIOR

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7133 TSR2 CONTROL SURFACES

Set contains all control surfaces and new airbrakes.

7134 TSR2 UNDERCARRIAGE

Set contains new undercarriage bays and doors, wheels and bomb-bay interior

7135 TSR2 ARMAMENT

Set contains new bomb bay mounted weapons' pod.

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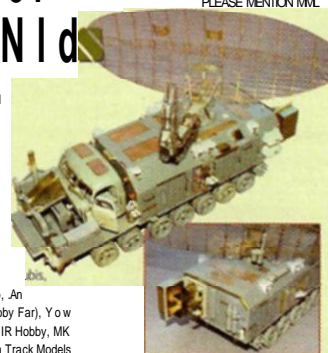
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What makes us choose our modelling subjects? I would guess that if each one of us answered this question I would receive a multitude of differing answers and reasons. For some it would be the latest kits on the market that dictate our choices, for others it may be a particular look or weathering technique that they want to have a go at, the list could go on and on. For me it is the actual history or a story that sparks off my imagination. I am very lucky to know some excellent researchers and historians that have some amazing stories to tell. By far the best historian and storyteller around today is Mirko Bayerl. This model is a direct result of reading Mirko's stories on the internet. I really wanted to depict a war weary Panzer IV from the battles in Hungary during the final phase of World War 2. The stories and pictures from this theatre of war really struck a chord with me. I was particularly keen to have a bash at a partially white washed vehicle. So with these ideas in mind the research then starts to find a suitable subject from the history. Again I was led by my friend Mirko who has a mountain of knowledge concerning those battles in and around Hungary. It came down to a September 1944 produced vehicle from the famous Wiking Division.

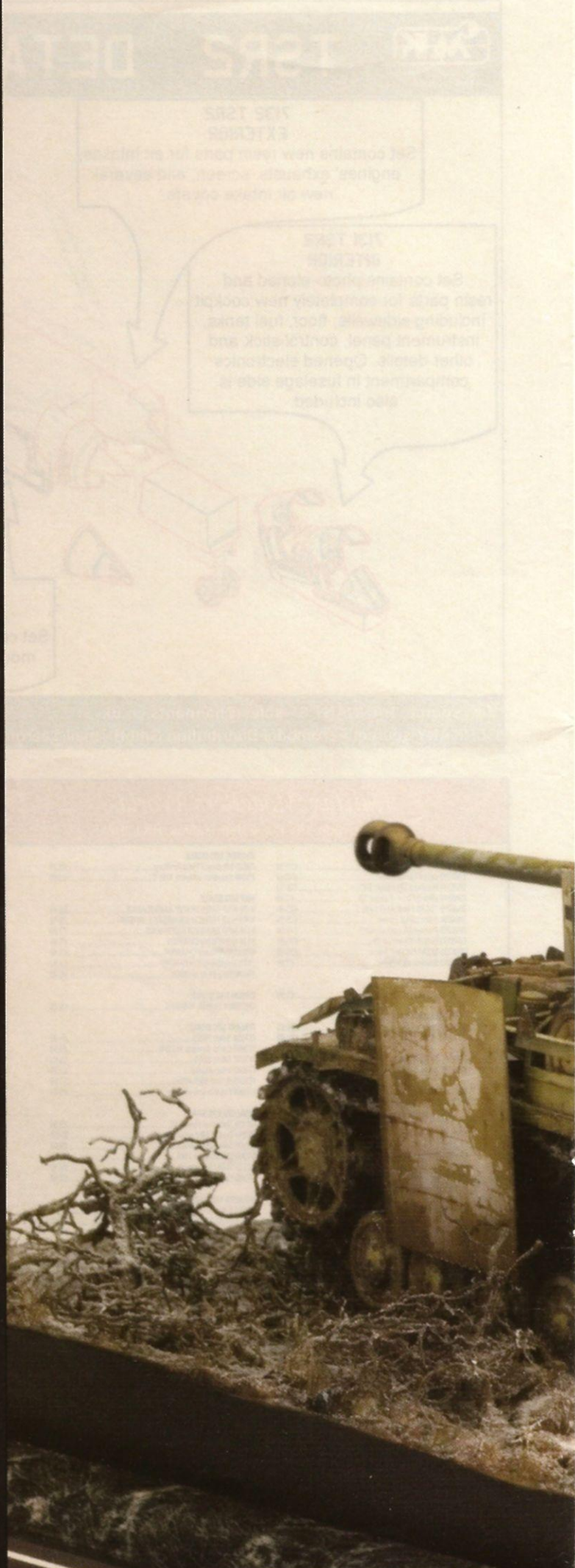
TANK OF CHOICE

As I was going to depict an Ausf J version of the German workhorse the choice of kits was between the Tamiya and Dragon version. Both have been around for some time now, probably 10 years or so. This means that they are not quite up to today's standards, both are still reasonable kits though. In the end the kit that I chose was the Tamiya one. It just had the edge for me in accuracy and detail. Before any plastic was cut I made sure that I had plenty of reference to hand. For anyone building a late version of the Panzer IV I would recommend the Achtung panzer edition on the mark IV and the excellent Kagero No.16 on the Panzer IV J. This last book is really great, with excellent photos of preserved examples in museums and a mass of easily followed line drawings, they even throw in a handy little decal sheet. My Panzer IV would be a vehicle produced in September 1944. The Tamiya kit depicts a vehicle that was manufactured a few months previous to this, somewhere around June of that year. This meant that as well as the usual

photo etch updates there are some detail/component changes that one needs to be aware of, including changing the large single horizontal exhaust muffler for the later vertical "stove pipe" type and the addition of the later armoured ventilator cover that was significantly larger than the earlier one provided in the kit. I scratchbuilt a new one from plastic card using the excellent drawings in the Kagero book. Also during this period the schurzen was changed from solid steel plates to the mesh Thorma schurzen, but as can see on my model I chose not to add these late style shields. When one researches these changes it quickly becomes apparent that there were exceptions to any rule. Dependent on stock levels certain parts sometimes changes appear to be brought in before the official dates and sometimes it is possible to see older components still being used on later models as stocks piles needed to be used up. With this in mind I chose to go with the older and more common plate schurzen. So with all of the production modifications sorted it was then necessary to update the parts in the actual kit... including those dreaded schurzen.

NEW TRACKS

I would have to say that a set of replacement tracks are a must on the Panzer IV as the ones provided in the kit are the old rubber band type. The tracks that I chose are produced by Model Kasten (MK). I find these to be very good in both detail and scale. They aren't the easiest of tracks to work with though. The other alternative would be a set white metal tracks from Fruilmodel. These are much easier to work with and will stand up to all of the abuse the roughest of modellers can throw at them. The only thing that stopped me from using the Fruil ones was the fact that I felt they were ever so slightly thicker than the MK ones. That isn't to say that I didn't have issues with the MK ones. My big gripe was the fact that you are only supplied with a few spares, not even enough to make up the factory supplied lengths of spare track on the standard Panzer IV. As I was keen to model a tank covered with spare track this was a real pain and I ended up buying an extra set. The Fruil set contains plenty of spares. I found this out after I had bought the initial set of MK ones. Either set would be fine to use, although if you need spares, then Fruil would be the better option. ►



KONRAD III

Phil Stutscinkas describes what went into producing his Euro Militaire 'best of show' Panzer IV Ausf J





The completed model prior to painting. The author replaced the kit barrel with a turned aluminium and brass item from Aber. It's clear from this shot why the author had to buy a second set of Modelkasten tracks to cover the hull and turret front.

BARREL AND BRASS

Certain vehicles need photo etch more than others. Well the late versions of the Panzer IV most definitely needs some photo etch and in my opinion lots of it. My first choice would be Aber, it is a quality product! Even though the Aber set was my choice it still doesn't mean I enjoy using etched brass, it is a necessary evil. Most went on with no problem, the real pain started when I attempted to tackle the schurzen and particularly the turret schurzen. I found these particularly troublesome. It quickly became apparent that these parts really needed to be soldered, superglue isn't really up to the job. At the time I didn't know how to solder so I relied on some quick tuition from My friends Nick and Brian. I have to say that the soldering turned out to really simple and highly effective. I will definitely use the technique in the future, cheers guys. The strength of the soldered joint really helps when trying to make it conform to the angles around the turret. The other useful tool when tackling this structure is a good aerosol super glue activator. This was needed when attaching the brass parts to the plastic parts of the model.

DETAILING

The Tamiya kit is good but can still be improved in pretty much every area. It is all simple modelling though, this like the missing rows of rivets and bolts on the engine deck all need to be added, I made these by stamping out small discs of lead foil with the back end of a drill bit and a piece of silicone matting. The suspension units are a mixture of standard ones and late production ones, the late ones are easy to recognize in that they have the top inner two securing bolts missing. The return rollers needed to have the missing grease nipples adding to their centre's and for this I used some small bolt heads from Grandt Line.

SCREW HEADS

On the turret roof there are a number of recessed screws that really need adding as they are quite a noticeable feature on the real vehicle, these can be a little tricky to replicate neatly. To add these I had to rely on some old fashioned modelling, the first part of the job was settling on the actual placement of the screw heads, again the Kagero book is the way to go. Most of the drawings are replicated at 1:35

scale so it was simply a case of transferring the measurements using a steel ruler and pencil. Next a suitable sized drill bit was chosen to match the screw heads on the plans. I then drilled a series of holes into the model. There is no need to drill completely through, a small indent will be sufficient. Next the hole is filled with an epoxy

putty, my choice is Magic Sculpt. With the hole filled, the flat back end of the drill bit is then very gently pressed into the hole. The aim is to get a nice level indent that sits just below the surface of the model. Depending on how much putty one has used, a small amount of overspill putty may be pushed up out of the hole. Leave this for



To avoid inflicting any modelling disasters on the intricate superdetailed model, the author prepared a second, 'sacrificial' PzIV on which he could test untried techniques - now that's dedication to one's art!



Tech Tip!

A cheap way to produce small rivet and boltheads is to punch out discs of lead foil using the reverse end of a drill bit onto a piece of silicone matting. A soft piece of matt will catch the punched-out discs without damage.

the moment as it will be easier to remove once the putty has dried by slicing the excess off with the tip of a scalpel. Before the putty has dried fully the actual slot of the screw head can be modelled by pressing in an appropriately sized edge of scrap photo etch. The edge is best sharpened with a file to produce a very fine line and the putty should be at the point of just starting to set.

WELD SEAMS

Most of these are missing from the Tamiya kit, so they will need to be added. To depict these I use a couple of different methods. When I need to get a very fine line of weld, say for instance around some fine detail, I just use the tip of a new scalpel blade to churn up the plastic to represent the weld line. The key is to use tiny little turns with the tip of the scalpel and working repetitively in the same direction. The finished weld seam can then be bulked out with a little Mr. Surfacer or, thinned model putty. The other technique

that I use involves the use of a textured epoxy putty line. If I need a straight line, as was the case many times on my Panzer IV, I first stuck down two strips of masking tape, taking care to leave an even straight line where the weld seam is to be placed. I then applied a small line of the putty in between the tape. Only a very small amount of putty is needed for this. Again the choice of putty would be something like magic sculpt or Apoxie sculpt from Aves. Other more traditional putties won't work. The pattern is then pressed in to the soft putty with a sculpting tool. The final job was to remove the tape before the putty has set.

FIGURES

For this model I felt that the figures would be the key feature. For this reason I was keen to start on them quite early on in the project. This was definitely a good idea as they took quite some time to get right. It was tricky fitting them in the small space of the engine deck. Also,

because the figures needed to be constantly test fitted on the tank, I was glad that I did the figure construction work before I had put any detail or paint on the tank. I find myself being drawn towards figure modelling more and more, maybe it is because I am getting more interested in the personal stories behind the men and their machines. Whatever the reason, I had decided early on that I wanted to create my own poses instead of relying on commercially produced figures. That's not to say I am a figure sculptor, I am not by any means. We are very lucky in that we have a multitude of really great plastic figures from companies like Dragon and Tristar for example. I see them as the modern day equivalent of the old Airfix and Historex multi-pose figures. I really like them and if, like me, you want to add some figures to your models that are a bit different to the norm then grab yourself a few boxes and start chopping away. The creation of the figures for this model was a little tricky as I wanted them to be grouped very close together. I had an idea of the sort of thing that I wanted so it was just a case of sorting through box after box of Dragon and Tristar figures lightly gluing bits together until I was getting near to the desired poses. Once I was happy with the rough pose I would then refine the figure by cutting and repositioning until I was totally happy. The main group of 4 figures was made up as a single block. I reasoned that building them individually just wouldn't be practical, I was after the huddled look so I built them up together as one.

It has to be said that the plastic parts will take the creative process so far but not to the final finished look I was after. I did quite a bit of sculpting, particularly on the MG-42 gunner. This was something of a new experience for me and one that I really enjoyed. Plastic figures

can be greatly enhanced with some careful carving. A number 15 Swann Morton scalpel blade is ideal for this. I went all over the plastic parts, sharpening and redefining all of the detail. One area that can be enhanced with plastic figures is to replace the kit heads with high quality resin items from the likes of Hornet. To me they produce the best Heads on the market and are a real pleasure to use and I would recommend them to everyone.

LET THE PAINTING BEGIN

I am very interested in the concept of light and shade. I would say that my painting philosophy follows the ideas found within the figure painting world much more than say that of the AFV modelling community. For me I see no difference in painting a tank, figures, groundwork or a piece of equipment. For me the most important concept in putting the different elements together in a coherent way is the effective overall use of shading. I shade everything from the smallest accessory to the tank itself to the same degree. With this in mind, and the fact that I wanted some really deep shading to emphasize the mood of the overall piece, I decided to undercoat the tank in a very dark almost black colour. I sprayed the tank overall with a mix of hull red and black making sure that the entire tank was covered especially the deepest recesses. This is important as it is these areas that will remain this dark colour on the finished model. Next a darkened shade of Dunkel Gelb was mixed up and sprayed on with an airbrush. I applied this coat directly from above the model trying to mimic sunlight, similar to the technique that is called overhead lighting. I work in small areas at a time and slowly build the colour up until the dark colour has been eliminated in all but the deepest areas of shadow. Indeed the key with this ►



Just visible to the front of the commander's cupola are all the tiny recessed screw heads the author had to add that are missing from the Tamiya kit. Note also the late type armoured ventilator cover which was scratchbuilt using the drawings in the excellent Kagero book on the Panzer IV.



As the author had particular poses in mind, he set about chopping and changing figures from both the Dragon and Tristar ranges. By buying several sets the author could mix and match until he was satisfied with the final poses. Epoxy Sculpt was used to blend any unsightly joints on the converted figures and was also used to alter the look of their clothing. Hornet resin heads were utilised throughout to replace those supplied in the Dragon and Tristar sets, and once attached, a No.15 Swann Morton scalpel blade was used to help further define the details on the styrene parts.

first colour is to obliterate as much of the shadow mix as possible by spraying from above. One will never eliminate all of the black, but it will give a very pleasing contrast between the two colours. A much lighter shade of Dunkel Gelb is then sprayed onto the tank. Again, the same ideas are used, but this time the coverage is more limited so that the darker colours are being left in the shaded areas. For example, this colour is only lightly used on the vertical surfaces. The Horizontal surfaces receive a much more thorough coating. The next step is a light cream colour. This colour is used to highlight further and start to incorporate interesting shapes and textures on the surface

of the model. The application is almost like scribbling. I am trying to add a random highlight rather than a large cloud or patch of colour. The tank was then glossed to protect the finish as well as being an aid for the weathering process. For this model I used cellulose based aerosol spray as I knew that the weathering process was going to be fairly harsh on the underlying coats of paint. As long as the cellulose is applied in thin coats it won't affect the base colours.

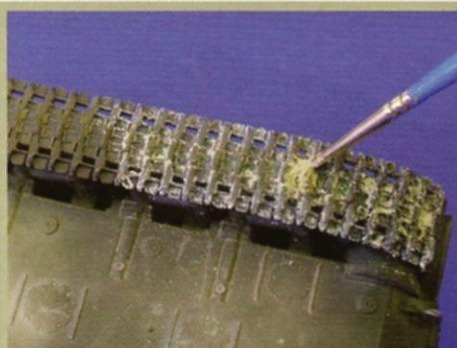
WHITE WASH

Next comes the application of the winter white. Again history tells us that the use of winter whitewash in Hungary was far from universal,

also the actual areas of a tank that were whitewashed could be different from unit to unit or tank to tank. I wanted to depict a partially covered vehicle with areas left completely free of the white covering. I tried to think about where the crew would apply the wash, which areas would be the most important to cover etc.. I wanted to have a distressed and decaying coat of the white so this presented a number of challenges. There are a few different methods to distress the white coat, many of which have been written about in the modelling press. I did consider them all but was worried about damaging the model by using some of these techniques.

Something new was needed. After much experimentation on the ever present scrap model I settled on a technique that I thought would work. The first step was the application of coat of hair lacquer over the now fully dried gloss coat.

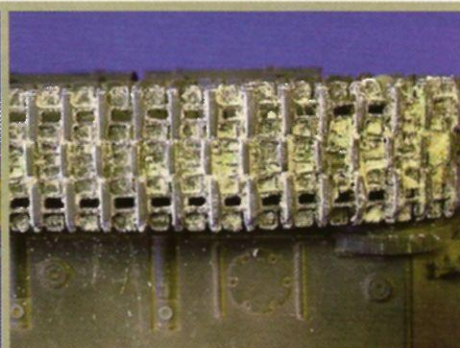
I applied a couple of thin coats of the hair lacquer drying each one off with a hairdryer. Next came the application of the white. I used Tamiya Flat White XF-2 sprayed with an airbrush and allowed to dry for a few minutes. The white was then very simply removed with the use of a brush and some warm water. I dipped the brush in to water before removing most of the excess water with a cloth, so I was left with a moistened brush.



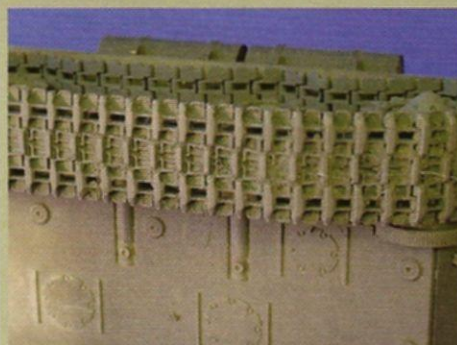
Before the author applied the mud to the Panzer IV, the mixture was tested on the scrap model to make sure it produced the effect he was after. This way if anything went wrong it wouldn't be a disaster...



The mud was mixed from a combination of plaster, water fine sand, PVA glue and a little static grass. Static grass is available from good model railway shops.



The mud mix has been applied to the test-tank's track, and been left to dry. Because this mix dries to a light buff colour it is easy to see if any areas have been missed.



This is what the mud mixture starts to look like under an initial coat of earth coloured paint. The author used a variety of colours to achieve a realistic finish.



Using a small stubby brush the mix can be controlled and applied only to areas needed, and get into all those hard to reach areas.



Any excess mud can be removed once dry with the aid of a scalpel by carefully scraping and flicking it from any unwanted areas. Don't forget that eye protection is essential for this type of task.

The brush was then gently rubbed onto the surface of the model. The white will start to lift as the water dissolves the underlying hair lacquer. This effect can be as subtle or as extreme as required more water and more rubbing will mean more white is removed. This technique is very gentle on the model and I had no problems at all removing paint from the delicate etch parts, and once I was happy with the amount of white removed the whole tank received another coat of gloss.

WASHES AND FILTERS

I am becoming very interested in the use and science of colour. I think that it is a very important aspect of modelling that unfortunately is given very little thought or consideration. I wanted to use a dark colour for my model to enhance the shadowing further, but at the same time trying keep colours rich and "clean". I wanted to avoid using black as this can drain colours and make them look lifeless. The darkest true colour that can be mixed is a dark brown using the three primary colours of red, blue and yellow. Therefore it follows that the darkest shade of this darkest colour can be made from the darkest available shades of red which is alizarin crimson, the darkest available shade of blue which is indigo and the darkest shade of yellow which is Vandyke

brown. When these three colours are mixed you end up with a wonderfully dark colour that is still rich in vibrancy. Furthermore the colour can be tweaked at the mixing stage to lean towards one of the 3 primary colours. I used this mix a great deal on both the tank and figures. The actual lining is pretty simple I first I draw around all of the details and shadow areas. This wash is then blended in to the surface of the model with a brush moistened with white spirits. It can also be effective to impart some streaks as well at this stage.

OIL PAINT WEATHERING

Up until this stage all of the weathering techniques have been applied on a gloss surface. This is because washes and thinned paint act in a much more controllable manner than on a matt surface. The gloss also acts a barrier between the delicate spray work and the potentially corrosive white spirits. The next stages of the weathering are best completed on a matt surface so the model is given a coat of matt varnish. My only choice for matt varnish would be a soluble matt varnish produced by Daler Rowney.

Because I was depicting a veteran panzer I was keen to add plenty of ground-in dirt and wear and tear. The first stage was to add some oil paint staining to the



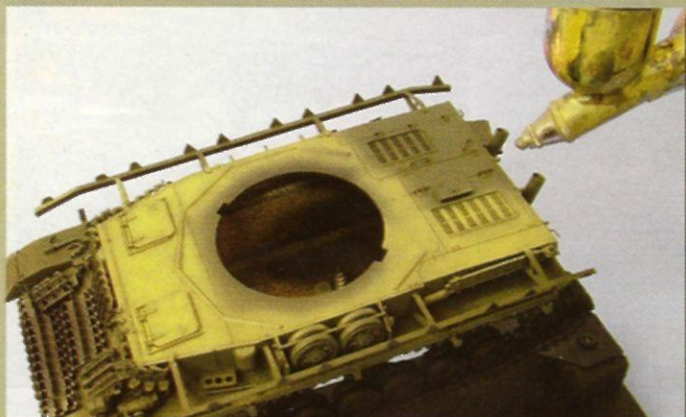
Painting the PzIV



The initial coat of paint applied to the model was mixed from hull red and black. By making sure this colour reached the deepest recesses, it would act as an effective shading for the following colours.



Next came a darkened shade of Dunkel Gelb. This coat was sprayed on directly from above, so the hull red and black colour shows through on any naturally shaded areas.



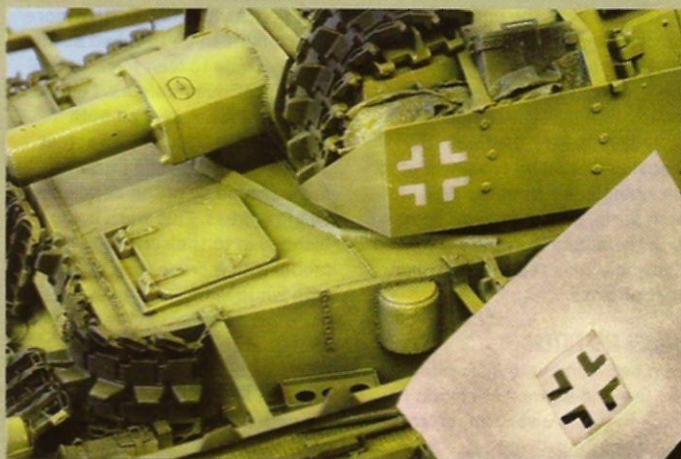
A second mix of Dunkel Gelb is being applied at this stage. This time the colour has been lightened and is sprayed on by 'scribbling' the paint on. Note how the effect has worked around the drivers hatches.



The next colour to be applied is a light cream. At this stage the colour looks very bright but will be toned down considerably by the time all of the weathering is in place.



With all of the shades of Dunkel Gelb in place, the model then received a couple of thin coats of a cellulose based gloss varnish to act as a barrier to protect the paint from the weathering processes.



A photo-etched stencil has been used to provide the basic outline of the turret Balkenkreuz. Note the details added by the author such as the missing weld seams, boltheads and jack block securing chain.

surface and more importantly the edges of details. When I am applying this I am trying to think of the soldiers with their dirty, oily hands, dirty uniforms, their hob-nailed boots and their heavy equipment. So with this in mind I use the paintbrush to try and portray these effects on the surface of the tank. I first mixed up a darker, richer version of the basic dark yellow and carefully drybrushed and stippled small amounts of oil paint onto the areas where I thought dirty oily hands would have been placed,

hatches are the obvious choice. By tweaking the colour to incorporate other shades interesting worn effects can be achieved. These would include the exposure of the red primer. Some yellow base colour poking through the white on edges, areas of bare metal etc. The colours should be many and varied and all applied in a controllable manner to give a myriad of tonal variations. Also by working with your brush on the surface of the tank you will also get a good idea of the areas which would attract the highest amount of wear.

Remember, think of the paintbrush as an oily rag, a dirty hand, a heavy crate a hob nail boot etc. This way the model will slowly start to take on a reality of its own.

PAINT CHIPS

With these ideas of wear in your mind it is the ideal time to apply the paint chips. The colours that you have already laid down previously with the oil paints will guide you as to the best location. They will also help tone down the look of the paint chips. For paint chipping I use different shades of Humbrol enamel

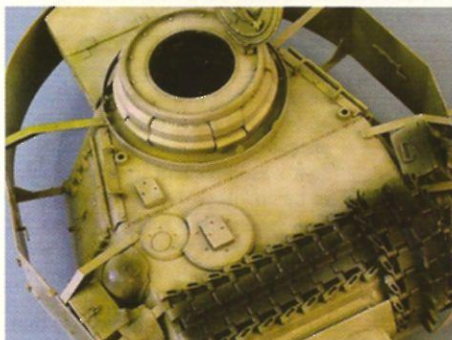
paint, applied using a Winsor and Newton series 7, 000 sable artists brush. The choice of brush is much more important than the actual type of paint used. A good quality brush will yield better results, whatever the paint type used. For deep, old scratches I use a dark grey-brown colour. This colour depicts exposed bare metal, for superficial light scratches I use a fresh-sand colour when I'm trying to depict a scratch that has only removed the top layer of dirt and grime thereby exposing a scratch of clean yellow base colour. The



Before the whitewash colour was added, the model first received a couple of thin coats of hair lacquer. This is the key to the final weathered look of the whitewash.



Here we can see that the whitewash has been applied by lightly mottling Tamiya Matt White XF-2 on with an airbrush. Note that certain areas are completely free of the whitewash, such as the insides of the schurzen armour and the muzzle brake.



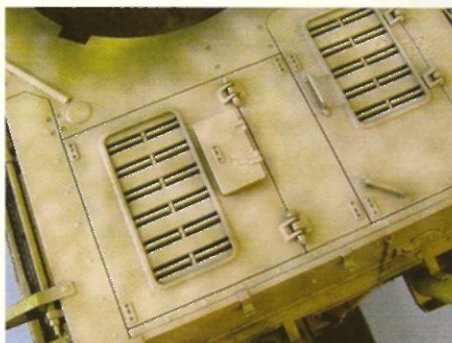
The turret has now received a fairly solid coat of white. The stowage and track links will be detail painted and weathered at a later stage.



Removing the white is simply a case of rubbing the surface of the model with a brush moistened with water. This causes the hair lacquer to lift from the surface and the white to bubble up.



This is what the turret looks like once the process has been completed. The amount of white removed is dependent on how much pressure is used when scrubbing the surface with the brush.



The hull has now received a coat of white. On the engine deck, the author had to take into consideration the amount of wear caused by troops riding on the tank and things like fuel spills and the heat from the engine itself.



The rubbing technique works best using an older worn brush as it is a little more abrasive than a new soft brush. Notice how only small areas at a time are being worked on - this allows for complete control.



Here we can see the finished effect on the hull front. Notice how more of the white has been removed from the two crew hatches, as these parts would receive more handling than some of the other areas.

same idea is used to depict the red primer. By using many different colours the interesting look for the surface is starting to evolve. This stage should not be rushed as neatness is paramount it is best to work in small areas swapping from colour to colour.

PAINTING THE FIGURES

Rather than going in to the actual painting of every figure I will concentrate on the tank commander during this explanation. All of the figures follow a similar process. The initial undercoating and laying down of base colours is always done with an airbrush. It is just a method that I have gotten used to over the years. I find the use of an airbrush just gives the

figures a little bit of a head start and you can get onto the brush painting stage much quicker. I also find that if the airbrush is used to spray directly from above with progressively paler colours a rudimentary shade and highlight effect can be achieved. It resembles the overhead lighting theory that is relevant in the figure painting world albeit to a much simpler degree. The creases and the folds are then much easier to "read" than say if a flat monotone colour has been used to undercoat the figure. The brush work of laying in further highlight and shadows becomes a bit like painting by numbers. The areas are already defined and in many ways the effect just needs accentuating.

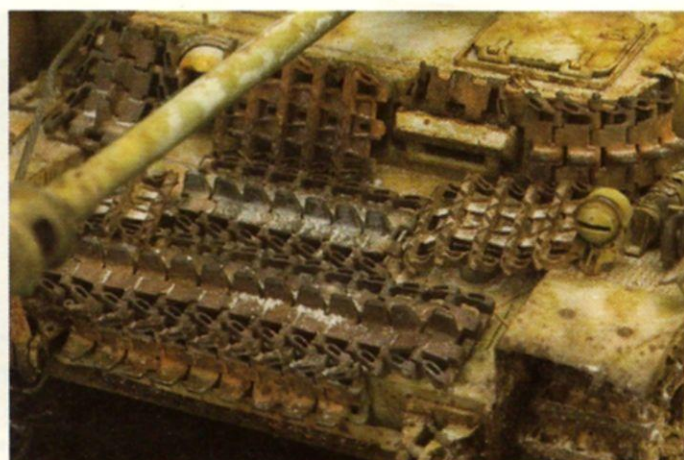
ADDING DEPTH

Because I use the airbrush for the initial undercoating and highlighting I always work from Dark to light. The colour that I used for these figures was NATO Black. Next I sprayed on a dark earth shade using the airbrush to mimic sunlight from above. This way the NATO Black only remains within the very deepest recesses such as the armpits and undersides of the arms. It is best to remember that this is going to be a white jacket so the dark colour shouldn't be evident anywhere but the darkest shadows. Following the same principal the colour in the airbrush is lightened to an off white colour. This is sprayed on, again from above, but this time the coverage is not as extensive as

the previously applied coat. This means that the figure will slowly start to take on a basic shaded and highlighted look, this lightening of each colour is repeated until pure white was being used on the tops of the shoulders and forearms. I apply the base coats to all areas of the figures using this method so some masking is needed to stop overspray spoiling previously airbrushed areas. I apply the same basic ideas for all of the areas on the figure I work from a dark undercoat and gradually lighten the colour carefully spraying from above to mimic a light source. Of course the amount of shading and highlighting that one can achieve even with the best airbrush is limited on a 1:35 figure.



The turret numbers came from an Echelon waterslide decal sheet. These decals are very well produced, and once applied conform perfectly with the aid of setting solutions to look as if they were painted on.



To recreate the realistic rusty look of the spare track links, the author first airbrushed them in various grey/brown mixes, followed by rust pigments and finally small amounts of graphite powder.

GLOSS COAT

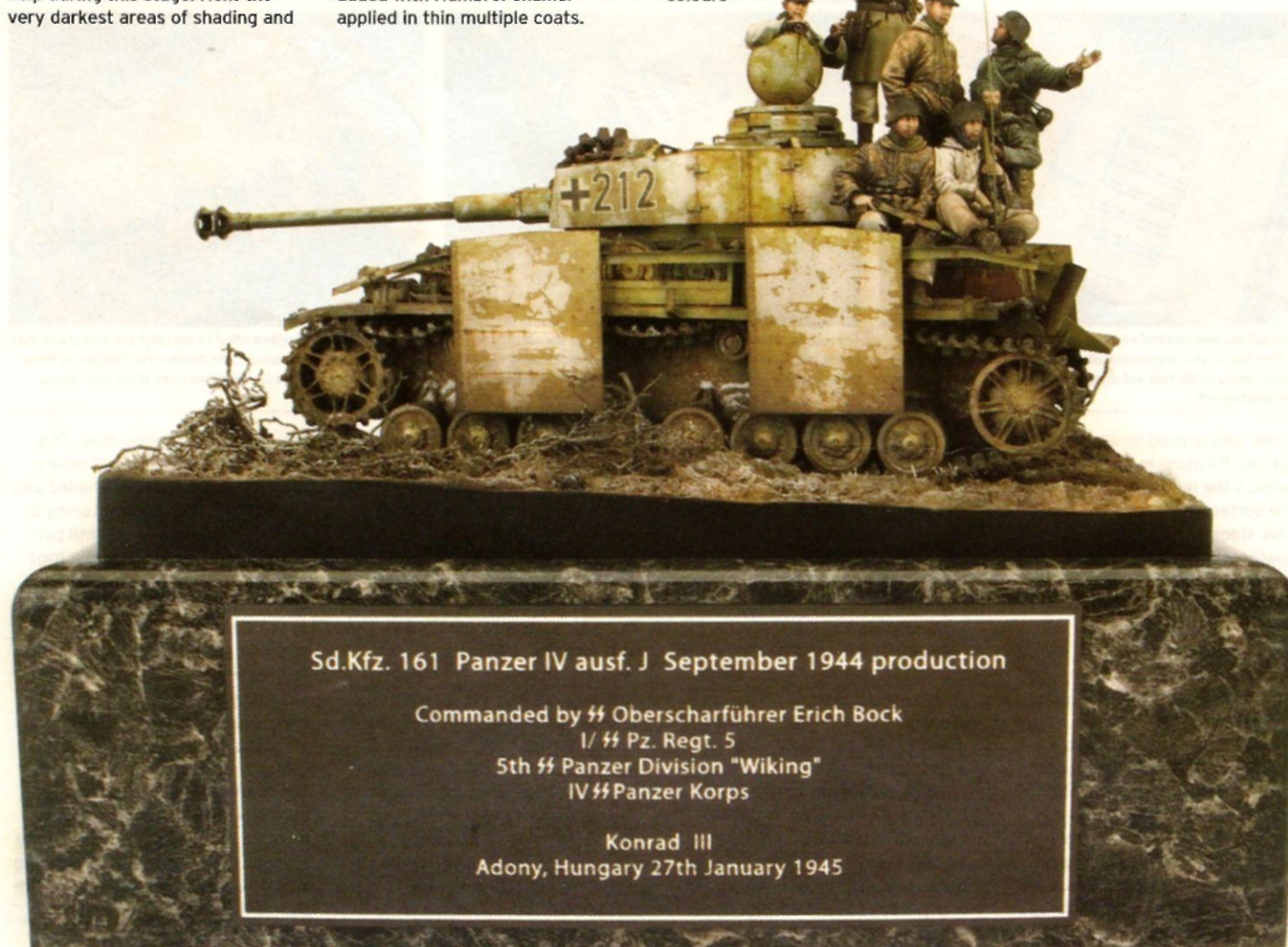
The next stage is the application of a gloss coat. Again this will protect the airbrush work and help with the colour washes, I first apply an overall wash of oil paint. The choice of colour is quite important. The aim is to get a darkened version of the base colour rather than a dirty brown or black. This is carefully applied and then gently dabbed off with a cotton cloth, a small amount of white spirits on the cloth will help during this stage. Next the very darkest areas of shading and

lining are applied in a darker shade of the overall wash. Again because oil paints have been used and the fact that they have been applied over a gloss coat the subsequent blending and feathering of sharp edges and demarcations is fairly simple. Also the basic highlighted and shaded effect applied earlier will dictate where to apply such colours. Next comes the highlights. I prefer to add these over a matt surface. The highlights are then added with Humbrol enamel applied in thin multiple coats.

FINISHING OFF

This is the key to a successful figure is thin multiple layers of paint. During the whole of the figure painting I was keen to incorporate the look of dirt and tiredness so all of the colours and applications of paint were sympathetic to this end. Shading colours were used that would portray this effect and highlighting colours

were tinted with dirt tones. I kept away from overly colourful and bright tones. The figures will always be a strong visual magnet so it was important that they look to be an integral part of the tank. I suppose in many ways that was the whole focus of the model for me. I wanted to model many different elements that all interacted with one another in a balanced way that is sympathetic to the grim reality of war. ■



Sd.Kfz. 161 Panzer IV ausf. J September 1944 production

Commanded by SS Oberscharführer Erich Bock

1/ SS Pz. Regt. 5

5th SS Panzer Division "Wiking"

IV SS Panzer Korps

Konrad III

Adony, Hungary 27th January 1945

Acknowledgements

I would have to say a big thank you to my good friend Mirko Bayerl, whose assistance during the project was invaluable, and my long suffering close friends Brian Murdoch, Alan Jamieson and Nick Bradshaw who are always there with honest and open words.





References - late model Panzer IV

To round off our feature on Phil's Panzer IV article, we have included a brief selection of photographs of surviving PzIVs at the tank museum in Saumur, and at the Old Cheese Factory in Falaise, which now houses an amazing collection of Allied and German WWII military vehicles.

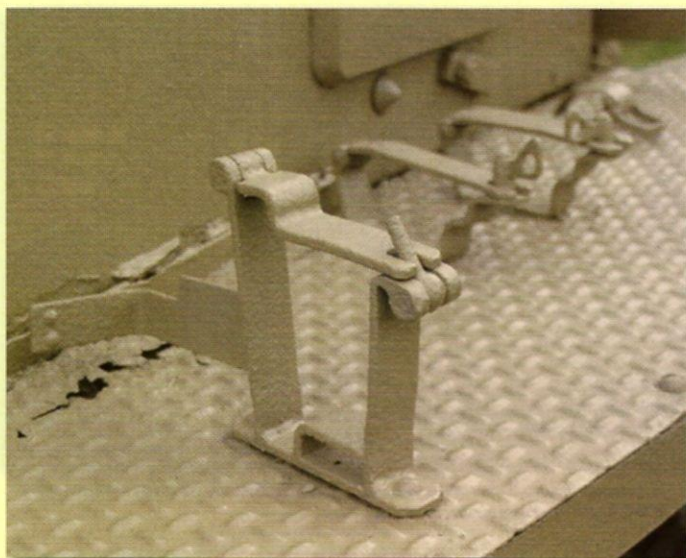


▲ This Panzer IV H can be seen outside the museum in Falaise.

▼ One of the distinguishing features between the J and this H model is that the J was only fitted with three return rollers.

▼ Panzer IV fenders are festooned with tool clamps and brackets, this is the right hand fender looking to the rear.



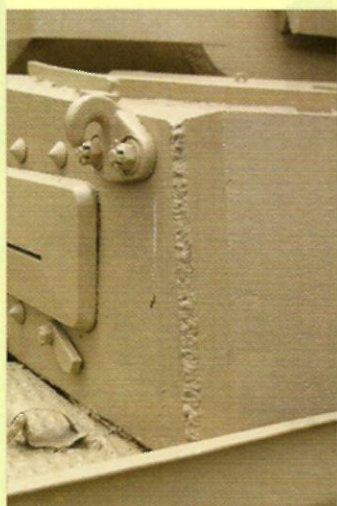


▲ Forward securing clamp for the vehicle jack.

► Drivers side vision port and jack block stowage tray. The triangular brackets are to stow the track tension lock spanners.



▲ The holes in the rear plate are, from left to right; auxiliary engine exhaust outlet, main exhaust, coolant drain outlet, starting crank port and finally the second main exhaust. As with this example, most of these smaller and easily damaged fittings tend to go missing after sixty years.



▲ Detail shot of the weld seam and lifting hook beside the co-drivers position.



▲ Close-up of the mounting socket for the FuG5 radio aerial.



▲ Rear towing eye detail - note the raised foundry information within the casting.



▲ Rear mounting bracket for the gun cleaning rods, just forward of the aerial mount.



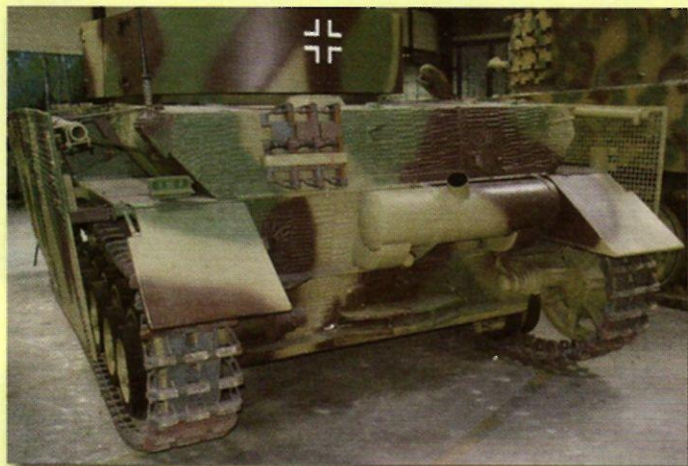
▲ This style of sprocket could be found on Ausf Gs right through to the final J variant. Note the casting number on the reduction gear housing.



▲ This pattern of idler wheel was fitted to Ausf Fs through to Ausf Js. Note the strengthening fillers welded between the spokes.



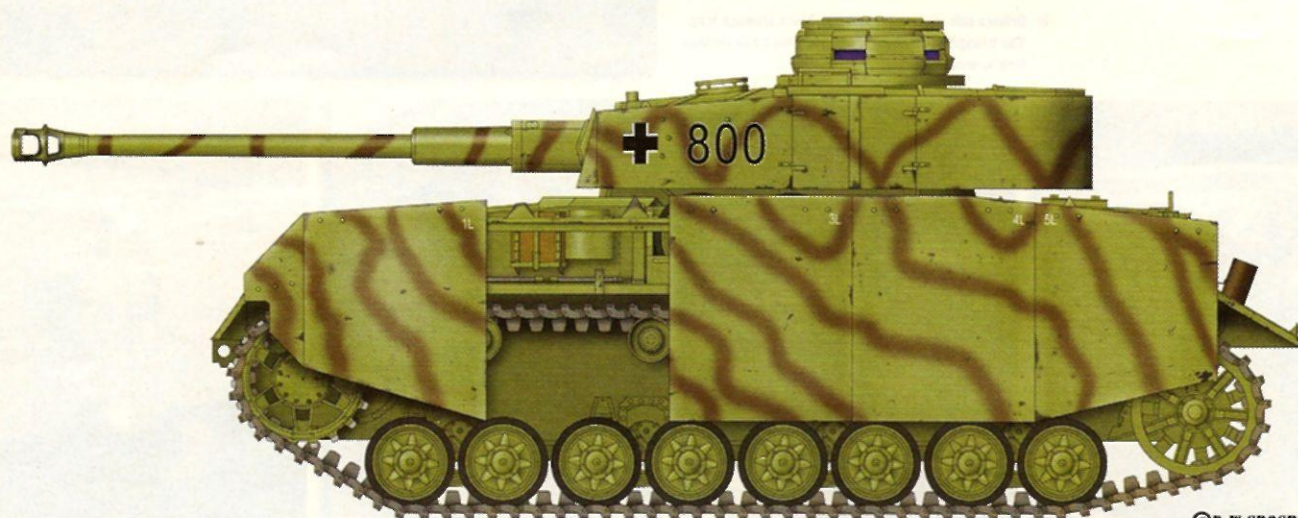
References - late model Panzer IV



▲ This Panzer IV at the French Armour Museum, Saumur has been beautifully restored by the museum staff.



▲ The mesh Thoma schurzen can be seen clearly in this shot. This was reportedly a material saving measure in the closing months of the war.



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BEAST KILLER

Fraser Grey offers some more invaluable advice in another of his comprehensive tech guides, this time using the Eastern Express SU 152.

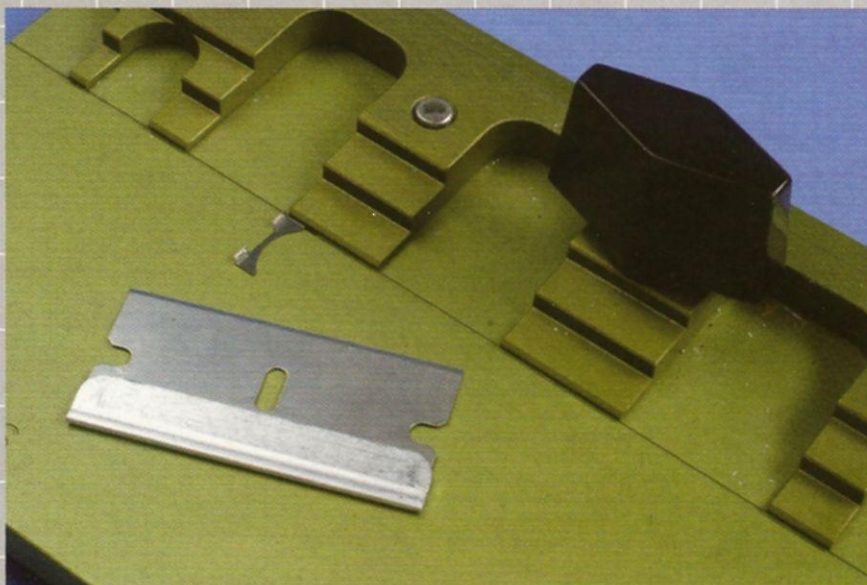
During the preparations for Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union, German Intelligence completely underestimated the quality of the Red Army's armoured forces assessing them to be equipped with obsolete multi-turreted tanks, supported by a collection of light tanks as encountered by the Germans in the Spanish Civil War. The KV-1 and T-34 were a complete shock to the Germans who found the new tanks resistant to all German anti-tank weapons

except for the famous 88mm Flak 36. The Germans reacted quickly, introducing the Panzer IV Ausf G armed with a long-barrelled 75mm gun, and new designs such as the Tiger II and Panther, which were influenced by the superior ballistic shape of the T-34. The KV-1 had met its match, its 76mm gun was ineffective against the armour of the new German tanks. A crash programme was launched to convert the remaining KV-1S chassis to an assault gun, replacing the tank's turret with a new heavily armoured superstructure

mounting a limited traverse 152mm Howitzer. The new assault gun was named the KV-14, and was a great success. The lower profile made the KV-14 a difficult target, and its armament of a 152mm howitzer allowed it to destroy German fortifications as well as the new Tiger and Panther tanks. A near miss from the massive 152 mm gun was capable of incapacitating a German crew through concussive effect. The assault gun was latter renamed SU-152, but to its crews it was always known as 'Zvierboi', Beast Killer!

EASTERN EXPRESS KV-14 (SU-152)

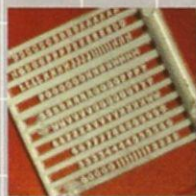
Eastern Express KV-14 is typical of all kits from Eastern Europe. Lacking the sophisticated moulding technology of their far eastern competitors, the chassis tub has to be built up from multiple parts. Although lacking in fine detail, the overall shape and dimensions are accurate. The Eduard photo etch set improved the model, and it is good to see co-operation between Eastern European manufacturers. With a good basic model to work on, the enthusiast, can detail the kit to produce a model to be proud of!



▲ There have only been three tools that I have found essential to my model building. They are an airbrush with compressor, the Historex punch and die set and also Mission Models "Etch Mate". This adaptable tool allows photo etch parts to be neatly and accurately folded such as the delicate support brackets for the auxiliary fuel tanks.



▲ To counter a 'shoot trap' under the main gun, the Soviets welded a massive horse shoe of metal to protect this vulnerable area. This feature is reproduced on the superstructure moulding of the kit, but appears to shallow when compared to photographs of the assault gun. I built it up with a platform of plastic card, to act as a support, and finished off with an application of Milliput superfine putty. When the putty had set I textured it with a mini drill fitted with a small burr. The replacement aluminium foil front trackguards can also be seen in this shot.



▲ From a single close up photograph, published in my reference book I could see that the housing had a casting serial number. Due to distortion I could not with certainty see what the number was and so I made a guess and used plastic numbers from the Slater's set. I had difficulty obtaining the set but you can look through your kit collection and cut suitable numbers from the sprues. The numbers were attached to the housing with thick tube polystyrene cement, which re-liquefies the putty allowing the numbers to be blended in with further use of the cut down paint brush.

The worst aspect of the kit was the vinyl tracks which do not capture the track sag typical of WWII Soviet armour. The instructions are also vague, indicating the general position of such items as the location of the on vehicle equipment.

The decals are good, and are opaque even on a dark green background. Unfortunately the location diagrams for the decals are misleading. For example the decal placement for Lieutenant Berezin's assault gun show the numerals located in the centre of the panel where as photographs show the

tactical number located in the top left quadrant, closer to the grab rails. Further more the call sign numbers should be repeated on the rear plate, and these are missing from the decal sheet. The markings for the 'Crimea 1944' vehicle '5252' are also misleading. Contemporary photographs of this assault gun show the vehicle to be partially covered in a winter scheme, with the tactical number '52' painted twice because the original location was covered with whitewash. Weathering has revealed the original number giving

the impression the tactical number was '5252'. I am suspicious of the two other 'unknown units' option as the slogans would be partially covered by the shovel and gun cleaning rods. It seems unlikely that factory workers or crew would obscure such an important patriotic statement.

You will not find slide moulding technology, turned aluminium gun barrels and etch sets in a Russian kit. Eastern Express kits are supplied 'Ikea style', as a series of flat plates to build the chassis tub. Care has to be taken to get all

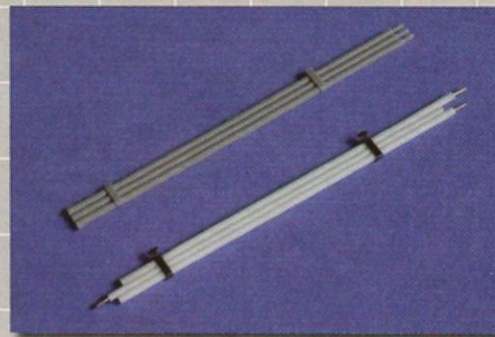
the components square. When the adhesive has completely set you can build the rest of the model up quickly. ■

Acknowledgements

My model is respectfully dedicated to the late Mr. John Baumann. John was a generous man, particularly with his knowledge of AFVs and reference archive. Over the years John patiently answered all my AFV related questions. I shall miss our conversations at the War & Peace Show.



▲ The assembled auxiliary fuel tanks. The solid moulded handles were removed and replaced with photo etch from the Eduard set. A prominent weld seam was missing from the tanks, which I added using the Aber narrow weld bead set.



▲ The Eduard set provides new clasps for the gun cleaning rods. Instead of using the kit's rods I cut up some suitably sized plastic rod detailed with fuse wire. I staggered the rods to add visual interest and to suggest that they were quickly used and stowed by a crew under the stress of combat conditions.



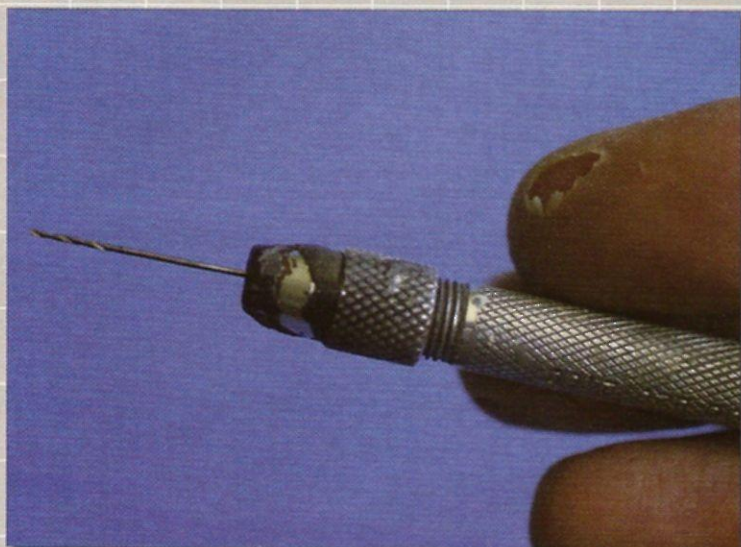
▲ Other missing details became apparent from the close up photograph. Replacing missing bolts can be a problem because you can never find an exact match, often necessitating the removal of all the kit's bolts only to be replaced with an aftermarket set. However I tried a new technique to solve the problem. I made copies of the kit's bolts with a small ball of Milliput fine putty pushed onto one of the kit's bolts which I needed to copy. When the putty had set solid, it was carefully removed with a knife. I then heated up some cut sprue in a candle until the plastic began to mushroom and forced it into the putty mould. I soon had a set of perfectly matching spare bolts which I needed to complete the missing details.



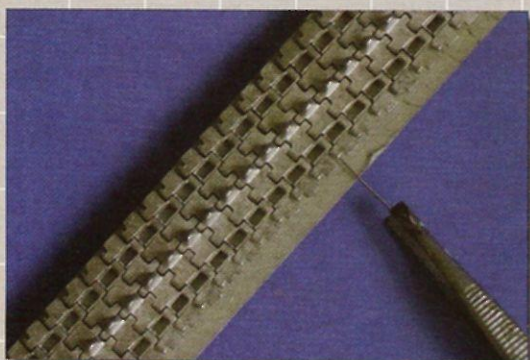


Tech Guide

- EASTERN EXPRESS 1:35 KV-14 (SU 152) • KIT NO. N35103



▲ The worst aspect of the Eastern Express kit is the tracks which are moulded in a rigid vinyl, in two separate pieces for each track. I have been told it is almost impossible to glue vinyl together, even resisting Cyanoacrylate adhesive. I decided to use an after market set from Friulmodel. I was very disappointed with what I found as I tried to assemble the links. I had to drill out the pin location holes on every single one, that's 164 links! at the end of the session I had a massive blister on my finger!



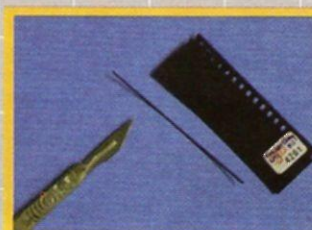
▲ When I had prepared enough links I used Marcus's tip for assembling Friulmodel tracks as detailed in Issue 1 of Model Military International. This involves using a strip of card and double sided adhesive tape to hold each link together while the metal pins are inserted with tweezers.



▲ I do not think it is always necessary to replace gun barrels with after market items, but I did not feel the Eastern Express gun tube gave the impression of weight and power of the full sized assault gun's weapon. I replaced it with a brass and aluminium turned gun barrel from the Aber range. Although it is flagged for use on an IS 152, it is the identical weapon fitted to the KV 14. (SU 152).



▲ The crewman was taken from the Tamiya set. Due to the limitations of the injection moulding process, I replaced the head with a resin item from the Hornet range. The hands, which were also replaced with resin items I found in my scrap box of figure parts. When the figure was finished, I drilled a hole in the heel so that a length of wire could be added to secure the figure in a pin vice for priming and painting.



Tech Tip!

To represent the glass of tank episcopes I use strips taken from processed transparency film. It can be easily and precisely cut to size with a craft knife. I use the point of a damp paint brush and a small amount of Micro Kristal Klear or PVA wood glue to attach the 'lens' into position. You don't need to own a camera, just tell the processor to develop a roll of transparency film and will have a life times supply!

The model was thoroughly cleaned in warm water and detergent and left to completely dry over night. The next day I primed the model in Halfords Grey Automotive Primer. The primer provides a uniform surface so any imperfections such as blobs of glue can be removed before painting begins. The primer also unifies the different materials such as brass photo etch parts and aluminium foil, providing an even surface texture for the paint to grip.



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No.: 208



Wooden boxes

Laser carved

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News

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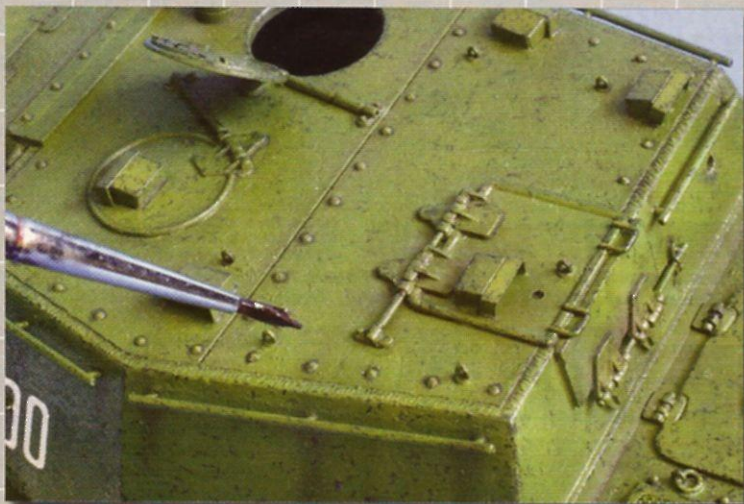
Tech Guide

- EASTERN EXPRESS 1:35 KV-14 (SU I52) • KIT NO. N35103

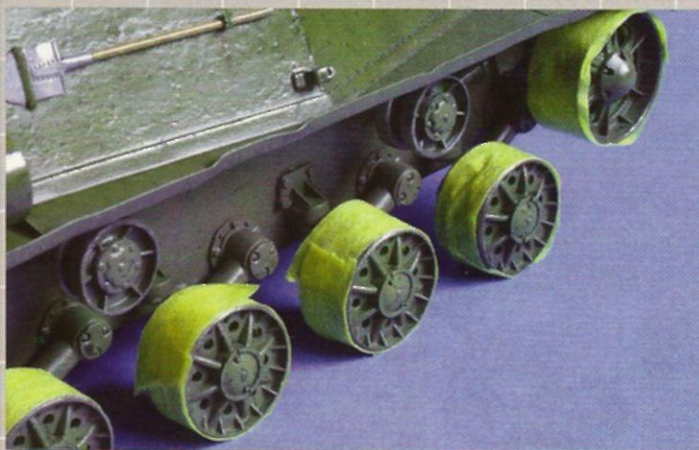


▲ As previously advised, I mix more blended paint than I expect to use, because of the difficulty of retouching any damage to the paint work at later stages of weathering process. I still had nearly a full jar of 'Russian Green' left over from the KV I Ehkranski project, so I used that mix. When I visited a tank scrap yard in Russia, all the vehicles were different shades of green, so I would not be concerned over an authentic shade. To avoid a 'stuck on Look' I have begun to paint all the tools and on vehicle equipment before any weathering begins. This allows washes and the applications of weathering powders into the overall patina of weathering across the models surfaces. The cleaning rods were painted in a blend of Humbrol 93 Desert Yellow and 160 German Camouflage Red Brown, with the wood grain painted in with a fine brush using the original blend, but with a small amount of 33 Black added. A piece of paper was slipped behind the rods to avoid the getting any paint onto the overall coat of green.

▼ The exhaust stacks were painted in a blend of Humbrol 160 and 33 and left over night for the paint to harden. I used to use a fine paintbrush to add chipping and rust marks. I now use coloured artists pencils, which has sped up the job considerably. I used an orange pencil to give the impression of rust to the exhaust stacks and a black and light green pencil to suggest chipping and scuffing over the rest of the model. The advantage of using a pencil over a paint brush is that you have more control and increase the variety of marks you can make. It is essential to buy a good quality pencil sharpener to maintain a fine point on the pencil during this process.



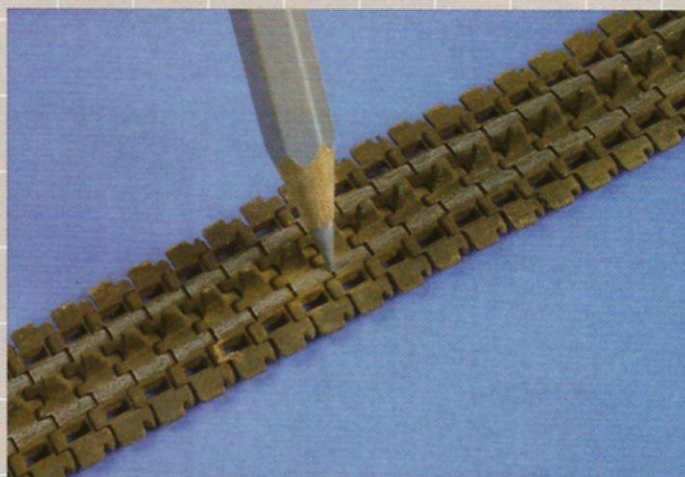
▲ I used to apply an overall wash of thinned oil paint to my models but I have become unhappy with the darkening effect this has on the overall camouflage scheme. I now apply thinned Sepia oil paint with a brush on all the individual bolt detail and panel trenches, allowing capillary action to emphasise the detail.



▲ The drive train where it comes into contact with the tracks was metallised with a brush applied blend of Humbrol 11 Silver muted with Humbrol 33 and 160. When the paint had cured Tamiya masking tape was applied to the road wheels to prevent the metallic sheen being affected by further coats of gloss and matt varnish. The model was then given an overall coat of Johnsons Klear to seal and protect the paintwork and weathering, in preparation for the application of the decals.



▲ The troublesome tracks were given a coat of Halfords primer in preparation for the next modelling session. Next day I made a coarse mixture of Mig Weathering Powders P034 Russian Earth and P028 Europe Dust. Don't thoroughly mix the powders together, the coarse speckled blend will add interest and variety. The track was then given a heavy coat of Klear and the weathering powder was quickly and liberally applied with a brush. Where the varnish is thickest a slurry is formed and where the varnish has begun to dry a mud encrusted effect is achieved as the weathering powder is glued to the track. Despite Klear being a gloss varnish the powders dry to an overall matt finish.



▲ When the tracks were thoroughly dry, I used a Supracolour silver Artists pencil to suggest polished metal where the road wheels have come into contact with the tracks. Further patina was added to the tracks using the dark brown and orange artists pencils I had used to weather the superstructure and hull.

Modelspec

1:35 Eastern Express KV-14 (SU 152) Kit No. N35103

Materials

Injection moulded light grey coloured styrene and water slide decals for five different vehicles.

Paints and pigments used

To finish Eastern Express's KV-14 I painted the AFV in a blend of Gunze Sangyo H340 Field Green, Tamiya Acrylics XF-60 Dark Yellow, and XF-51 Khaki Drab, thinned with Tamiya X-20A Thinner. To weather the self propelled gun I used localised washes of Rowney Artists Oil Colour Sepia Series B 251, around bolt heads and details. Artist's pastels dark brown and black were used for soot effects around the exhaust stacks, MIG Europe Dust P028 and Russian Earth used individually and blended together, were applied on the tracks and drive train. Wear, rust and 'chipping' were simulated using artist's pencils all from CARAN d'ACHE range, Black 009, Flame Red 050 Prismalo 999, 249 'Green' and Supracolour 1 3999.498 'Silver'. Humbrol paints and white spirit were used to paint the figure. A coat of Johnson Wax Klear was used to seal the paint work in preparation for decal application. When the model and figure had been completed, I used my last bottle of Polly Scale Flat Finish applied with an airbrush.

Accessories used

Eduard Etch Brass set 35 344, Aber Russian Barrel ML-205 for ISU 152, Item No. 351-40., Aber Narrow Weld lines set R-06., Karaya Tow Cables for KV-1, and Friulmodel KV-1/KV-2 Tracks ATL-10. The figure is from the Tamiya set Russian Army Tank Crew at Rest Item No. 35214, with a replacement head from Hornet Soviet WW2 Soft Tanker Helmets set HRH 05.

References used

Stalin's Heavy Tanks 1941-1945.

By Steven J. Zaloga, Jim Kinnear, Andrey Aksenov & Aleksandr Koshchavtsev. Concord Publications Company ISBN 962-361-616-3. Please note the book contains only five photographs of the KV-14 (SU 152).

KV-152 Heavy Tanks.

By Steven J. Zaloga Jim Kinnear and Peter Sarson. Osprey Military ISBN 1-85532-496-2. This book has only two photographs, one of which appears in the above publication.

✓ This is the only injection moulded kit of this famous Soviet Assault Gun in any scale. The model is dimensionally accurate, and reasonably priced. Resin conversion sets by Azimut and AEF Designs were produced for Tamiya's KV-1, but these have been discontinued.

✗ The sprues are covered in a black mould release agent, and have to be washed in detergent before construction begins. There is excessive flash on all the parts which makes a tedious job cleaning up the components. Two piece vinyl tracks. The instructions are vague concerning the location of some parts. I had difficulty finding photographic reference for the SPG to confirm the details. Inaccurate decal location diagrams. Some details are missing such as an episcopes, grab rails, convoy light and a small stowage box, but the problem is mostly addressed with the parts supplied in the Eduard Etch Brass set.

Available from

Eastern Express KV-14 (SU 152), and Eduard Etch Brass purchased from LSA Model Mail Order Tel: 01273 705420.

Aber, MIG Weathering Powders, Friulmodel Tracks and Hornet replacement heads. Purchased from Historex Agents Tel: 01304 206720.

Karaya Tow Cables available from Accurate Armour Tel: 01475 743 955.

CARAN d'ACHE Pencils and Rowney Artists Oil Colour available from most high street Art Stores. There may be problems obtaining Humbrol paints as the company is currently in receivership.

Rating ●●●●●●○○

LET US SPRAY

Confused about which airbrush and compressor package to buy? The Editor takes a look at a new range of customisable solutions that provide the answer...

As Editor of MMI, one of the questions I get asked the most is, "would an airbrush improve my modelling, and if so what one should I get and do I need a compressor to go with it?" Well, with a bit of practice an airbrush will make a big difference, and yes a compressor would be a sound investment too. Using cans of propellant might seem cheaper in the short term, but once you have got into using the airbrush and discover what a great tool it is the cost of propellant cans will soon mount up.

The choice of airbrush and compressor combinations is vast, and more often than not confusing. But now, thanks to The Airbrush Company, a solution is at hand with a range of new 'all-you-need-to-get-started-in-a-box' sets, making the decision far easier.

Each set comprises an Iwata compressor, Iwata airbrush, pistol-grip filter, coiled air hose, Medea Airbrush Cleaner, PremiAir Liquid Reamer, PremiAir Foaming Cleaner, 6 Lifecolor acrylic paints, Lifecolor Black and White acrylic paints and Lifecolor Acrylic Paint Thinner. These set can

also be customized up either up-grading or down-grading either the compressor or airbrush if you so choose, the helpful and informative staff at The Airbrush Company will be only too pleased to help to make sure you get the set that will be most suited to your needs.

The Silver Jet compressor is a very compact device and comes with some useful features, such as an easy to use variable pressure control with analogue pressure gauge, plus a handy airbrush holder. Its smart metallic casing and perforated chrome end

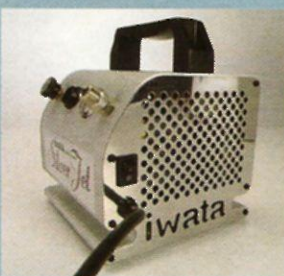
panels give it a tidy appearance, just right for those who practice their modelling on the kitchen table and don't wish to cause too much disturbance to the domestic harmony...

The Sprint Jet compressor features a moisture trap and a very useful fold-away carrying handle.

Looks-wise it's not as pretty as the Silver Jet, but it's still quite small and reasonably quiet during running, and provides more than enough output to run any 'brush in the Iwata range. ■

Z Model Silver (£229.99)

There are five base kits, one set for each type of Iwata compressor in the range, starting with the compact and neat Silver Jet machine. Included with this set entitled 'Z Model Silver' is the entry level Revolution airbrush, and here you get a choice of paint cup type - the Revolution BR (1.8ml gravity feed paint cup), Revolution CR (9ml gravity feed) paint cup or Revolution BCR (56ml suction feed paint bottle - not recommended for the Silver Jet compressor). Although labelled 'entry level', the Revolution is a superb airbrush, so the terminology is relative - it's rather like having an entry level Aston Martin...



The Silver Jet compressor will be perfect for anyone with limited space in their modelling area, due to its compact size.



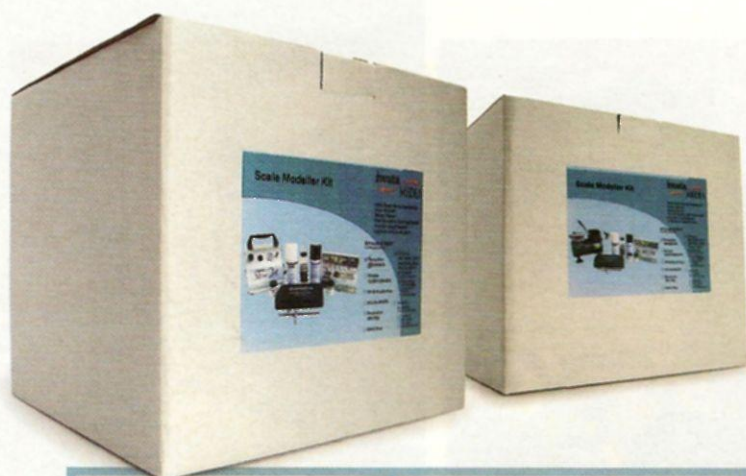
This so called 'entry level' compressor comes complete with a variable pressure control and pressure gauge.



The Iwata Revolution can be supplied with the option of different sized colour cups, 1.8ml, 9ml and 56ml.



One of the Lifecolor range of acrylics six paint sets is included with each set. These will be tailored to the purchaser's needs.



Each set comes with a selection of cleaning products, all of which are essential for keeping that precision engineered airbrush working smoothly. A handy coiled hose means the compressor doesn't need to be right next to where the spraying is taking place.

The other sets in the range are as follows;

- Model Smart with Smart Jet compressor (£314.95)
- Model P-Lite with Power Jet Lite compressor (£359.98)
- Model Power with Power Jet Pro compressor (£439.99)

All of the above come with the Revolution airbrush, which is upgradeable to any airbrush in the Iwata range at extra cost, using the upgrade reference codes;

- Model Upgrade ECL; Eclipse BS/CS/SBS/BCS - add £25
- Model Upgrade HP; HP-B Plus or HP-C Plus - add £65
- Model Upgrade SB; HB-SB Plus - add £94
- Model Upgrade HI; Hi-Line BH or CH - add £86
- Model Upgrade TR; Revolution TR1 or TR2 - add £80
- Model Upgrade CMCP; Custom Micron C Plus - add £210

For further details, please contact;

The Airbrush Company Ltd
Marlborough Road
Lancing Business Park
Lancing
West Sussex
BN15 8UF
UK
Tel; 08700 660445
www.airbrushes.com

Z Model Sprint (£279.99)

The 'Z Model Sprint', as the name suggests, is based around the Sprint Jet compressor, which is a heavier duty than the Silver Jet, and again the choice of Revolution airbrush models. In all the sets, The Airbrush Company provide a pack of six Lifecolor paints, and these are also a variable option according to the requirements of the modeller - you can choose when you place your order. With this degree of flexibility, there is certain to be combination of compressor, airbrush and paint set to suit your needs, so give them a call to discuss the options!



The Sprint features an easily accessible on/off switch, seen here.



The Sprint comes with two airbrush holders, one for brushes fitted with smaller colour cup, the second when using the large suction feed type.



The sprint compressor comes with a moisture trap, one of these is essential especially if working in a humid environment.



As with the Silver Jet set the Sprint set includes a Revolution airbrush with optional colour cup sizes as per the modellers requirements.



One of the Lifecolor acrylic authentically matched sets is included, the choice is up to the modeller at the time of purchase.

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

Sd.Kfz.234/1

Schwerer Panzerspähwagen (2cm)



FUNKY ACHT-RAD!

The second incarnation of Dragon's 234 series, brings us the 2cm reconnaissance version...

Those of you that have read Issue 9 of Model Military International will have seen Sam Dwyer's super 234/4 build article, utilizing the same lower hull and running gear as this kit.

From the ground up, this kit just bristles with detail. The suspension, steering mechanisms and wheels all show a high level of accuracy and in particular, the one-piece lower hull is one of the best single mouldings I've seen to date. There really is so much going on under here, it's almost a shame to mount the vehicle the right way up! With very little effort, the steering can be made to move, (be careful when modelling yours with the wheels turned, as the inner and outer wheels follow different steering arcs!) as it's simply a case of cutting the locating pins from the end of the drive shafts,

although this isn't mentioned in the instructions.

On the inside, a pretty full interior is given, two driver's stations, transmission casing and detailed inner door frames are all there, as are the internal fuel tanks. The only hiccup is positioning of the ammunition stowage, although two racks are given, they are not mentioned in the instruction. There is very little detail available on this and what there is seems to be fairly contentious, so that part's up to you!

Up top, the outer hull is equally as good, with separate front and rear hatches, engine louvers and positionable vision ports. The interlocking front plates are spot-on, with barely a visible seam and all other seams, where the armour plates meet, have just the right gaps and steps or welds as necessary.

As with the earlier 234/4, you are provided with the earlier, 4-bin fenders, but there is a new, alternative tool locker supplied. The instructions have also been amended with regard to the exhaust outlet

pipes, which were previously both facing outward, now you are given the 'option' of facing them both in the same direction.

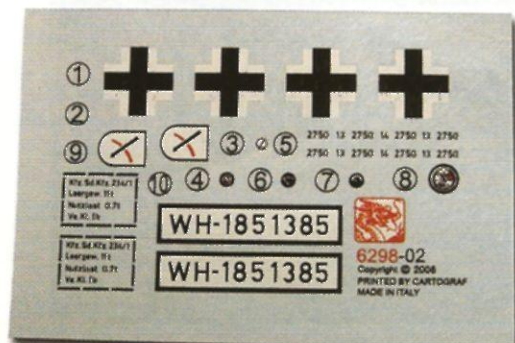
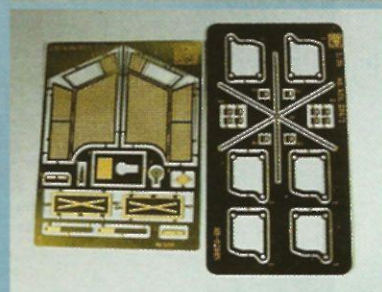
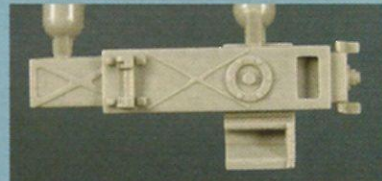
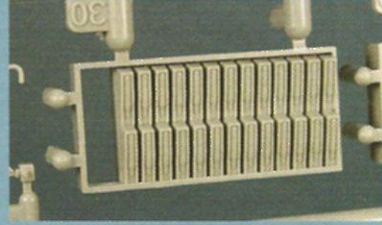
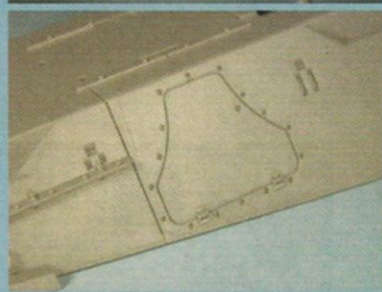
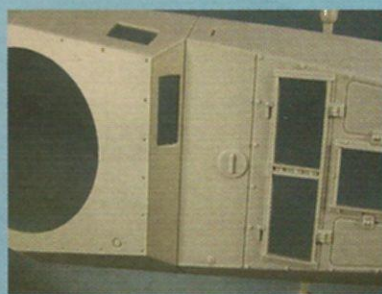
All new for this kit is a brand-new rendition of the 2cm 'Haengelafette' turret and it's a vast improvement over that offered in the Dragon 250/9. The main body of the turret and gun mount are moulded in plastic, with the upper mesh screens, gun sight and stowage bin lids, provided in etched brass.

As with most Dragon releases, there are a fair amount of extra goodies included, this time a set of etched jerry-can 'spines' are included, which is good thinking, as the jerry-can stowage on these vehicles is a very prominent feature. An etched 'crow's foot' antennae and a set of turned width indicator poles complete the package.

Marking options are given for two vehicles and a set of do-it-yourself licence plates are also included.

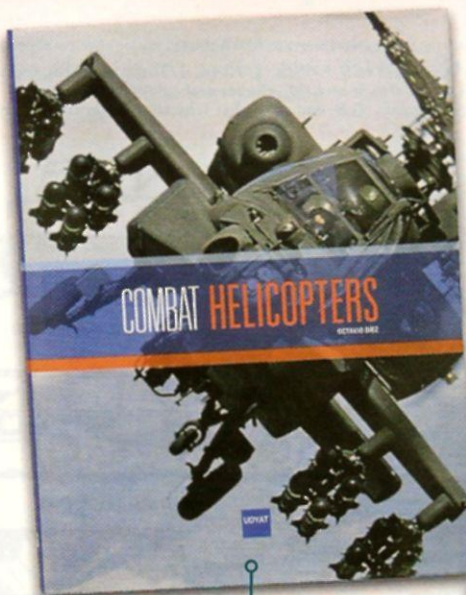
As you've probably guessed, I really love this kit, top marks to Dragon for bringing these brand-new 8-Rads and for making such a fantastic job of them. Bring on the Puma and 234/3! Highly recommended. ■

Darren Thompson





Book Reviews



COMBAT HELICOPTERS

OCTAVIO DIEZ

UDYAT PUBLISHING

ISBN 84-931055-2-X

Not really a modellers reference book as such, but nevertheless the large clear colour photos in this 96 page hard back book are still very useful, whether it is for weathering reference or for getting inspired by the myriad colour schemes seen on today's battlefield helicopters.

The book is designed to offer a brief oversight to these remarkable aircraft. Each helicopter is covered by a handful of photos, a specification table and some informative text, and this book has rekindled my enthusiasm to finish some of the ever growing list of helicopters I start building but never seem to be able to finish. If you're into 'choppers' get a copy of this book.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

The Editor



PHOTO FILE

MBT ARIETE

AURIGA PUBLISHING

ISBN 88-88711-21-X

This 78 page landscape format book is an absolute must for anybody interested in or wanting to build and detail Trumpeter's kit of this futuristic looking AFV.

The book is packed with both black and white and colour photos, scale drawings and a selection colour side profiles.

Split into eight sections including one on the prototype, the series 1 and 2 production vehicles, the additional up-armour package fitted to vehicles on deployment along with some useful interior shots make this an invaluable reference source.

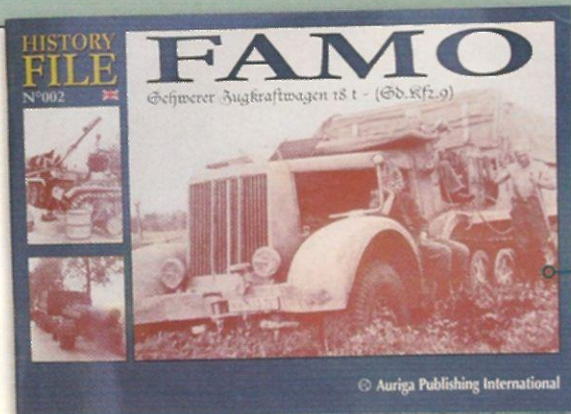
This is definitely one of those books that will be all you will ever need to build and detail the Italian Army's latest Main Battle Tank.

Highly recommended

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

The Editor





HISTORY FILE 002, SDKFZ 9 'FAMO'

THOMAS ANDERSON

AURIGA PUBLISHING INTERNATIONAL

This is the second book in the new History File series, from the publishers of Steel Art magazine and is in the same landscape format as their earlier title on the Panther.

Volume two covers the SDKfz. 9 'Famo', the largest and heaviest of Germany's WWII halftracks, with most of the sixty-one photos covering the standard, early tank recovery version, although there are also some nice shots of the 9/1 Bilstein crane and the SdAnh. 116 Trailer.

After a brief, one page Introduction, the rest of the book is made up of well captioned photographs, most of which are printed one to a page, with a double, centre spread of artists colour plates.

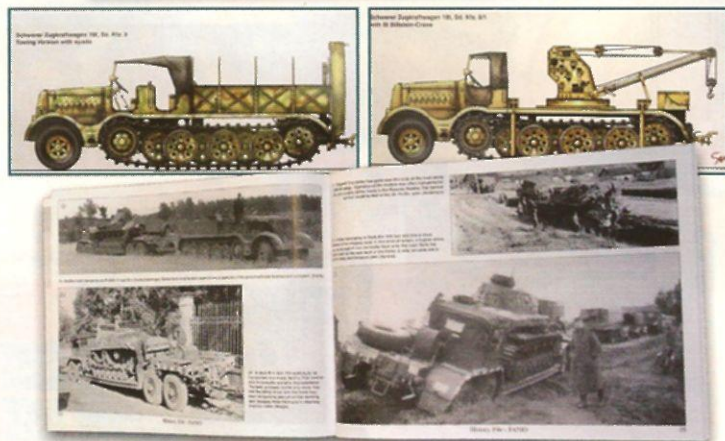
Reproduction quality is good, on the whole and although some of the original pictures are a little grainy they will provide a good reference for modelmakers looking to reproduce the beaten, weary look of this hard-working vehicle.

The book has a good mix of newly published photos, alongside more recognizable ones and will complement nicely the books already available on the Famo. Recommended.

Available from

www.bookworldws.co.uk

Darren Thompson



ARMOR AT WAR SERIES, 'PANZER VOR! 1-3!'

FRANK DE SISTO

CONCORD PUBLICATIONS

ISBN 962 361 090 4 (PANZER VOR!)

ISBN 962 361 103 X (PANZER VOR! 2)

ISBN 962 361 123 4 (PANZER VOR! 3)

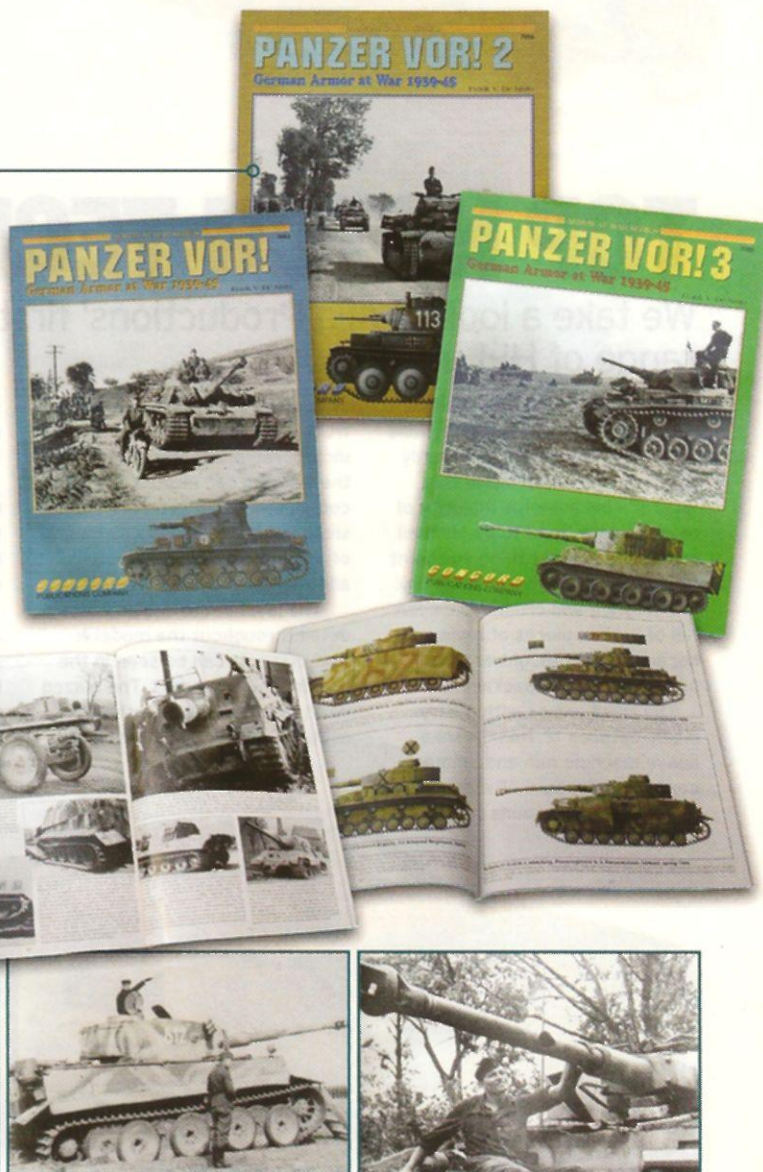
Anybody who is interested in modelling military vehicles will surely be familiar with Concord's 'Armor at War' series, the latest volumes of which, are featured here.

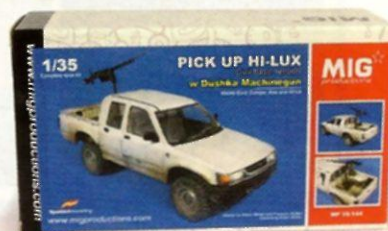
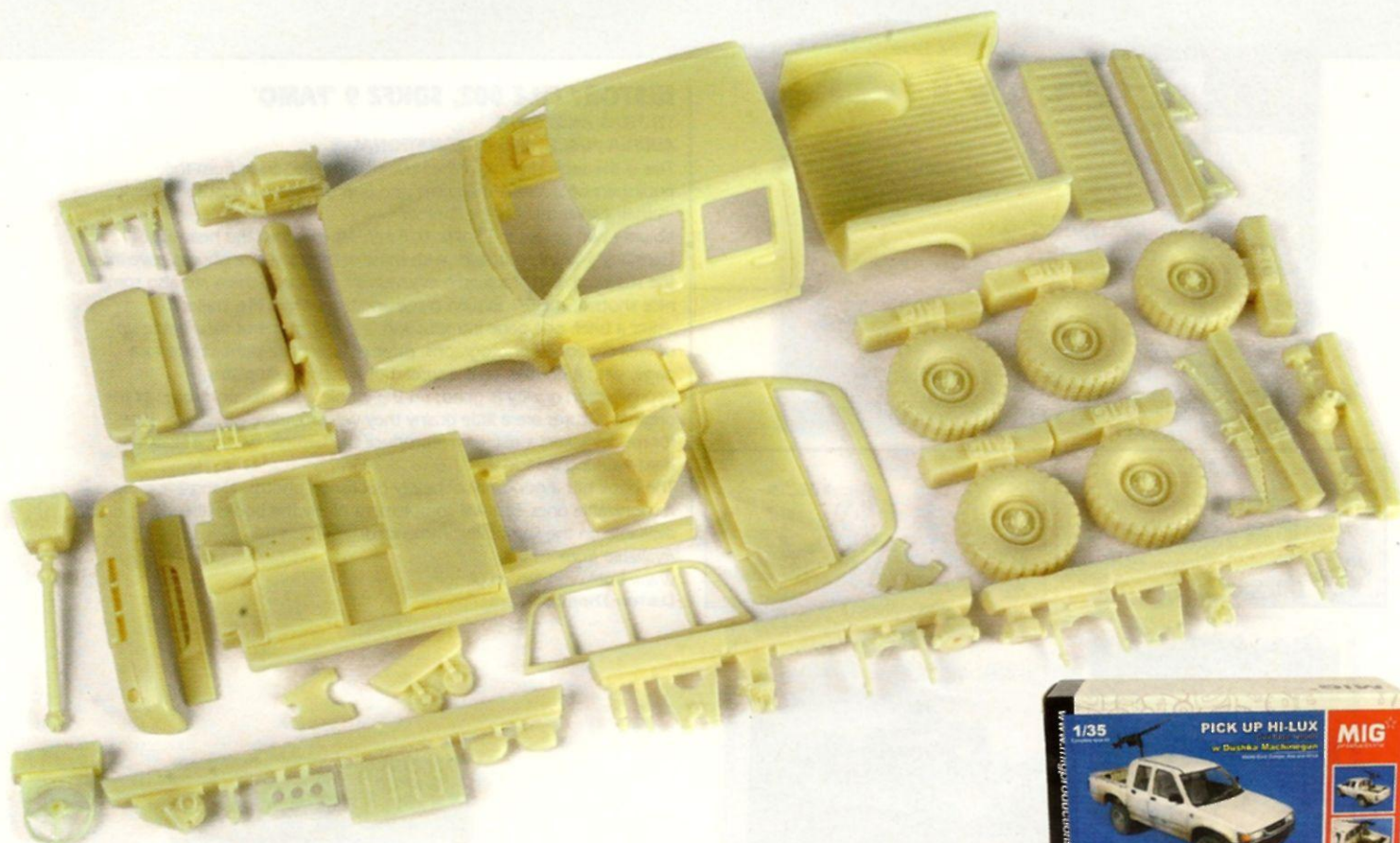
Following the now familiar soft-cover format, all three books run to seventy-two pages, including a two or three page introduction and an eight page centre section of colour plates. The rest of the book is filled with black and white period photographs, printed between two and four, to a page and each with a detailed caption.

The featured photographs cover armoured vehicles of all types, and are loosely grouped together, according to theatre or time period, from 1939 through to '45. Whilst many of the pictures have been published previously, there is enough new material to compensate and with new pictures surfacing all the time, this Panzer Vor! Series could run and run. Recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

Darren Thompson





TOP NOTCH TECHNICAL

We take a look at Mig Productions' first release in their range of Hi-Lux pick-ups.

It's pleasing to see that this new kit from Mig productions comes packaged in a sturdy box - why emphasize this fact? It's because the majority of resin kit sales tend to be via mail order, and the last thing you want to see pop through the letter box is a crushed and crumpled carton full of broken pieces of resin because little thought or effort has gone into the packaging.

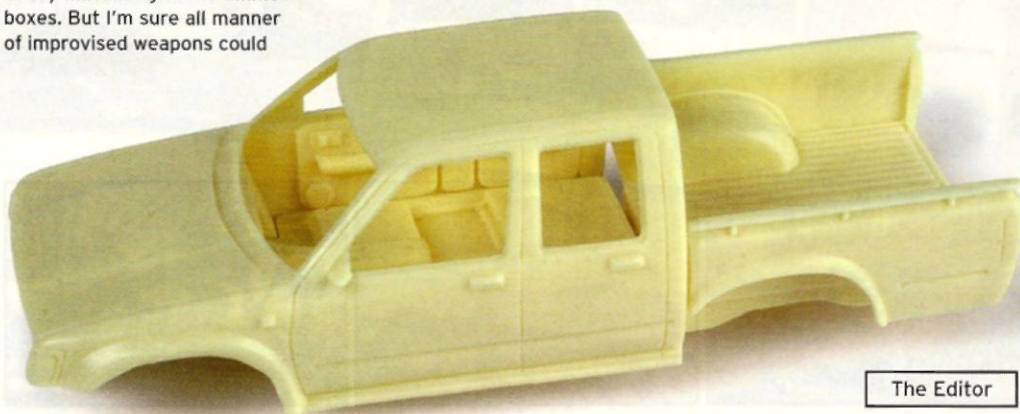
The Hilux comes with a very nicely detailed 12.7mm Dushka heavy machine gun and ammo boxes. But I'm sure all manner of improvised weapons could

be grafted onto these ubiquitous trucks. One of the clever features incorporated into this model is the way the cab interior can be completely finished before simply sliding onto the chassis by means of a neat pair of guide slots, allowing for a near perfect fit.

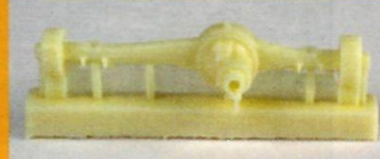
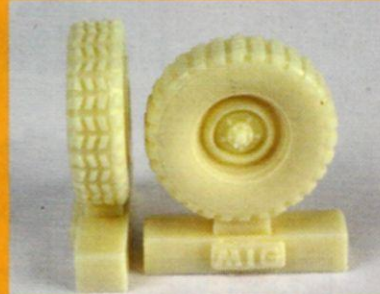
The level of casting and detail throughout the model is first class, as can be seen in the accompanying photos. The glazed parts are supplied on a sheet of acetate, which has all the window

shapes pre-printed and only require cutting around before fixing in place.

As these vehicles have been used in conflicts all over the world, camouflage patterns can be varied and colourful, and I'm sure a search of the internet will offer some amazing schemes and a splash of colour to any appropriate modern diorama. Distributed in the UK by Creative Models; www.creativemodels.co.uk



The Editor





Letters

WRITE TO:

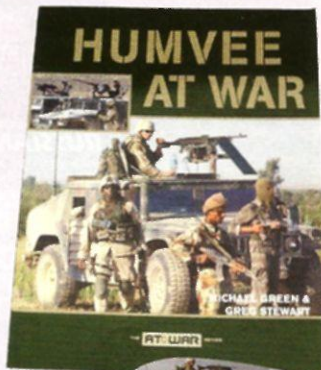
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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

RECOMMENDED READING

HUMVEE AT WAR THE AT WAR SERIES MICHAEL GREEN AND GREG STEWART ZENITH PRESS ISBN 978-0-7603-2151-5

Having picked Modern US tanks as my recommended read last month, it is purely coincidental that I have chosen a book by the same two authors this month. The reason I have chosen this title is because I felt compelled to find out a bit more about this ubiquitous vehicle whilst editing Ralph Zwilling's article in this issue on the up-armoured variants used in Iraq. This 126 page softback contains a breakdown of all the different versions and includes data tables and last but certainly not least lots of really good large colour photos.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

TELFORD TEALEAF

As the winter months draw in, one of the highlights to brighten this time of year when the British weather is at its worst is the IPMS Nationals (Scale Model World) at the Telford International Centre. This year, as previous, I stayed with my good friend Spencer Pollard, the Editor of Military in Scale who lives nearby and has a traditional party on the Friday evening. Set up of the stand was done on the Friday night, in the knowledge that the hall was in safe hands with all the security staff in their dayglo jackets and radios. But this time on the Saturday morning with a bad head, Spencer returned to his trade stand to discover this hobby does have an ugly side, in that under the noses of the security some little thief had stolen his Tamiya 1:48 He162 WWII German jet aircraft, which I know had taken many hours to build. For me this was a very sad event, as I naively thought this type of behaviour didn't have a place in our hobby. But after listening to some of the event organisers this is unfortunately an all too common occurrence from their experiences.

Well anyway, Happy New Year!



LACK OF LETTERS

You may well have noticed the new look to the letters page. Well this is due to the fact we didn't receive any letters at all during the production period of this issue! These two pages are here for you to make any relevant comments, ask questions or debate any valid points, so if you would like to see these two pages carry on or be left out, it is your call! It should be at this point that we put in some kind of disclaimer about trying to reply to all every letter, but sometimes we just don't get the time. At least this month we didn't have that excuse!

See you again on February 1st!

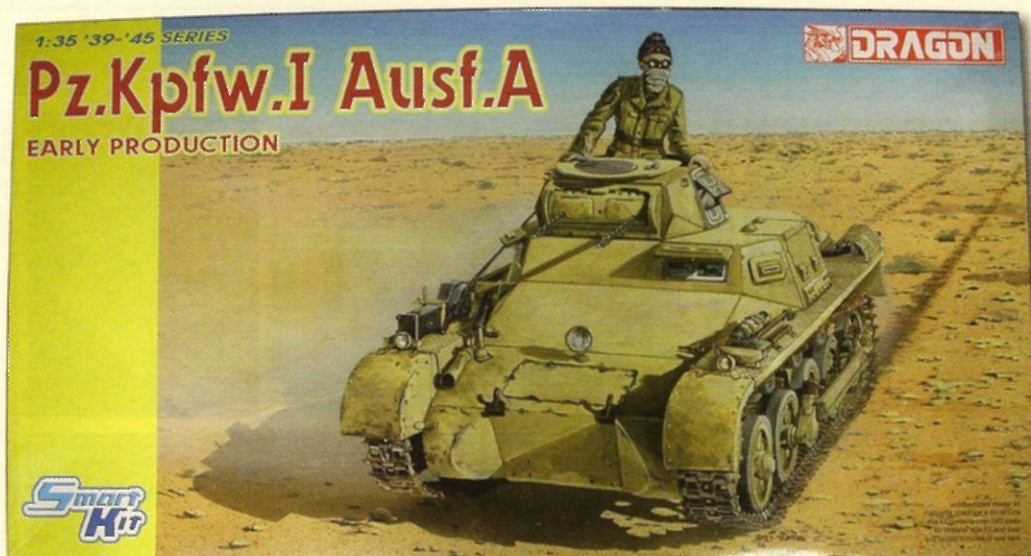
Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

JUST GOTTA BUILD IT!

WE TAKE AN INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPH THAT WE THINK IS JUST CRYING OUT TO BE TURNED INTO A MINIATURE SCENE...

Whilst I was going through my Saumur photos for Phil's article I came across this one of a Sd.Kfz 251/7 Pioneerwagen, and it was at this point I started to reminisce that it was this very vehicle I built for my first article for TMMI back in 1999 using the Tamiya 251/1 kit and an MR Models conversion. Well how things have moved on, I have now got my own magazine to play with and Dragon now produce this version as one of their amazing 3 in 1 kits. The combination of Dragon's kit and the immaculate restoration job the guys at Saumur have done, has really put me in the mood to build another.





THE 'SMART' ONE!

Dragon gives it's latest Panzer I chassis the 'Smart Kit' treatment.

Well, my suspicions were correct, Dragon have indeed made more good use of their new Panzer IA hull and following the review of Dragon's Flakpanzer I, in issue 9, we now have a 'Smart Kit' of the Early Production gun tank.

This time there is no interior detail included, but the individual sprued tracks from the Flakpanzer I, have been replaced with a set of new 'magic tracks', meaning no clean-up for these extremely fiddly parts. Other than that, the lower hull and running gear are essentially unchanged.

The upper hull and turret include some very fine weld seams, with all the flush-head screw detail also present, around the vision port openings. The vision ports are included in clear plastic and all

are positionable, open, or closed.

All upper hatches are also separate, positionable parts, including engine deck hatches, crew hatches and even the fuel filler ports.

Fenders are again moulded with the location holes half-drilled on the underside, leaving the modeller to open them as necessary, although with the exception of the jack and wire cutters, the tools have their respective clamps moulded on.

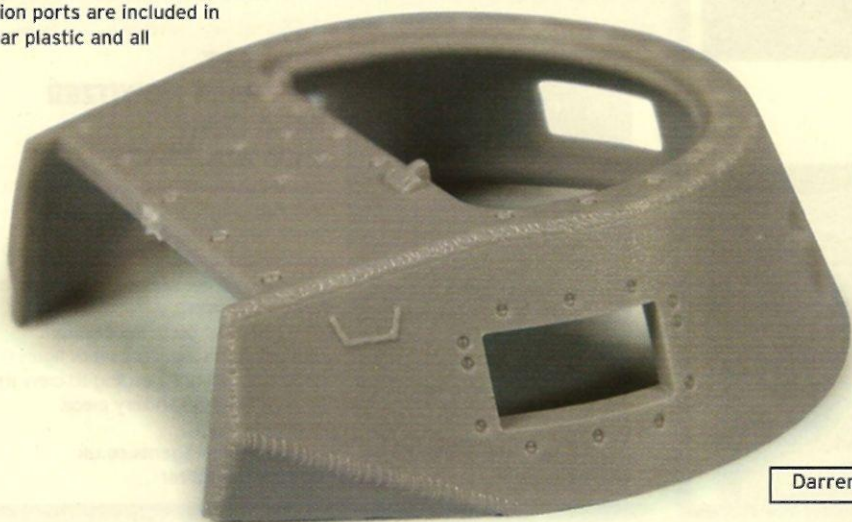
As with the rest of the 'Smart Kit' series, extras are kept to a minimum, there is however, one small, etched fret supplied, catering for the perforated exhaust covers and rear engine deck screens.

Decals are supplied for three

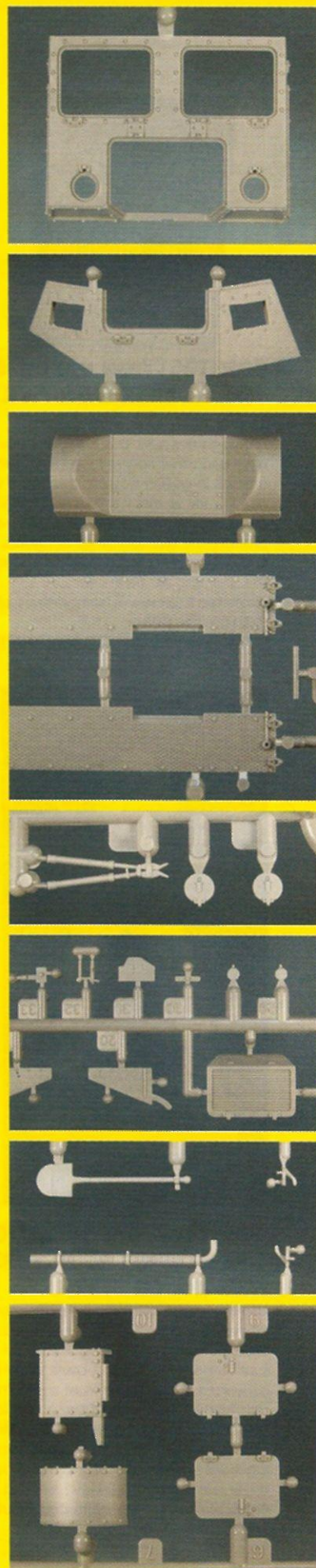
versions, one DAK vehicle, one serving in Norway and finally, a pre-war Germany vehicle in early three-tone camouflage scheme. Whilst the decals are very well presented, those wanting totally accurate models would do well to check their references whilst building a particular vehicle, as the markings supplied may require some subtle detail changes from the kit.

This is another fine kit from Dragon which certainly doesn't suffer from the lack of extras. With the recent advances in plastic moulding technology, the kit parts surpass the detail on most aftermarket details from just a few years ago. All we need now is a new Panzerjager IA, to complete the set!

Highly Recommended. ■



Darren Thompson





Figures

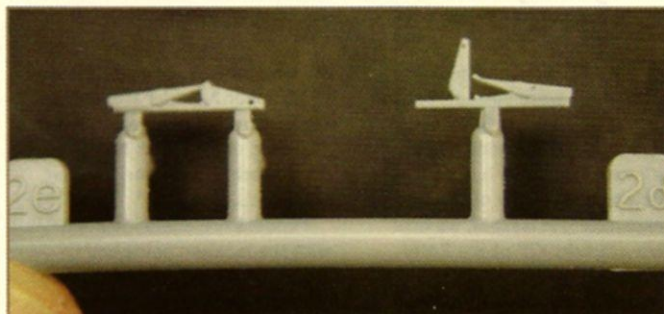
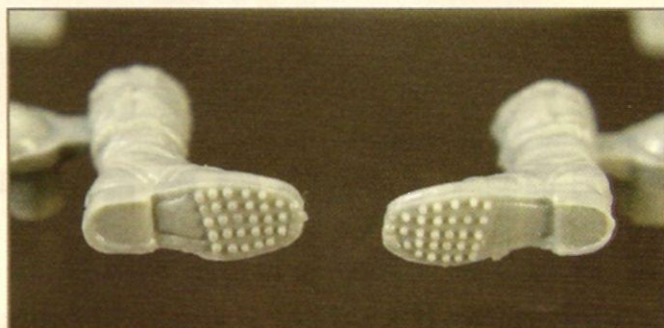
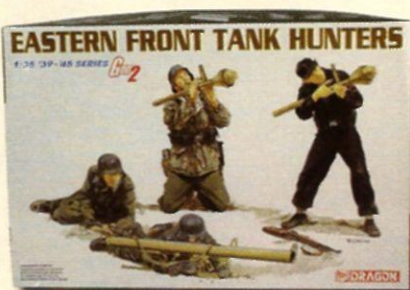
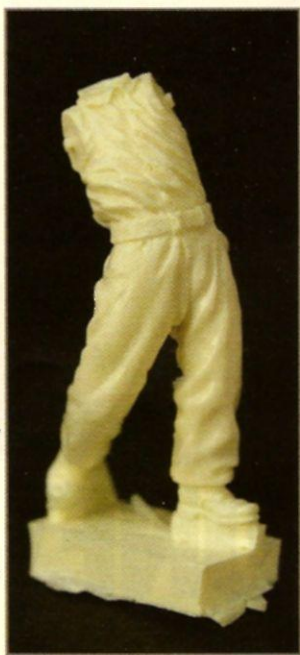
- A round-up of the latest figured sets on release...



CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 1:35 WORKER WITH PICK ITEM NO. CO 0067

Although not new, this is the first time we have had these figures for review. Being dressed in civilian clothing this figure will be ideal for so many scenes and covering many periods. As it's from the guys who produce the Warriors range of figures, we know that both casting and the quality of the sculpting are excellent.

Available from www.isamodels.co.uk
9.5/10 - The Editor

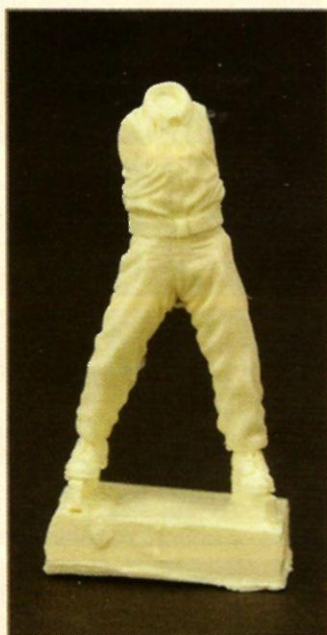


DRAGON GEN 2 1:35 EASTERN FRONT TANK HUNTERS ITEM NO. 6279

Another stunning set of Gen 2 figures from Dragon, so what do we get in the box? For starters seven sprues containing all of the figure parts, weapons and personal equipment. A small etched brass fret is included for the belt buckles, shoulder epaulettes and the slings for the rifles.

The Panzerfausts all come with the option of being in the armed and ready to fire mode as well as the stowed safe position.

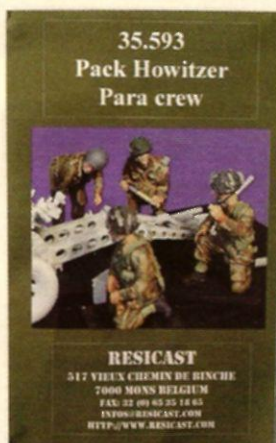
Available from all good model shops
10/10 - The Editor



CONSTRUCTION BATTALION 1:35 WORKER WITH JACK HAMMER ITEM NO. CO 0067

Like the worker with the pick, this guy operating a pneumatic jack hammer is depicted wearing civilian clothing, but I'm sure without much effort could easily be converted into a soldier from an engineering unit working from one of those cool looking compressor trucks. Again both sculpting and casting are without fault, the jack hammer looks very good and will really be brought to life with some imaginative painting.

Available from www.isamodels.co.uk
10/10 - The Editor



RESCAST 1:35 PACK HOWITZER PARA CREW ITEM NO. 35.593

This set contains four beautifully sculpted British or Commonwealth W/II Paras designed specifically to crew Resicast's 75mm M1A1 Pack Howitzer. All are dressed in the familiar Denison smocks.

All credit must go to Resicast for producing this excellent set of figures, perfect for anyone needing to crew the Resicast airborne artillery piece.

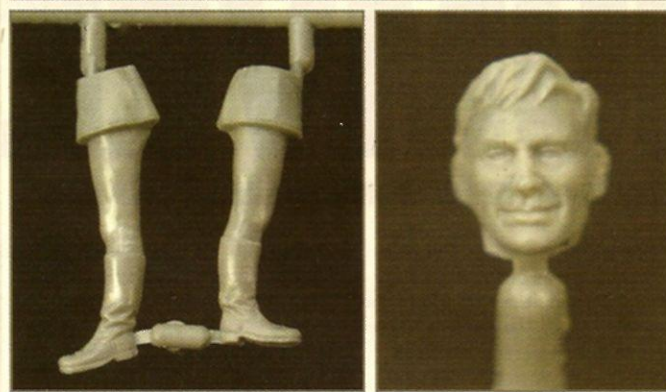
Available from
www.historex-agents.co.uk
10/10 - The Editor



ICM
1:35 MAY 1945
ITEM NO.35541

The latest set of figures we have received from ICM consists of four Soviet soldiers in relaxed poses celebrating the end of the War in Europe. All four are nicely moulded, I particularly liked the accordion player sitting on the chair

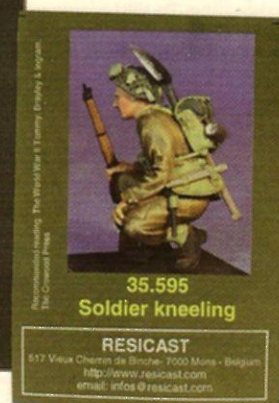
Available from Hannants
 9/10 - The Editor



RESCAST
1:35 SOLDIER KNEELING
ITEM NO. 35.595

Another quality figure from Resicast - this time we have a British WWII infantryman in battledress. I wish this figure was available when I built my Firefly diorama back in Issue 2, he would have been perfect for it.

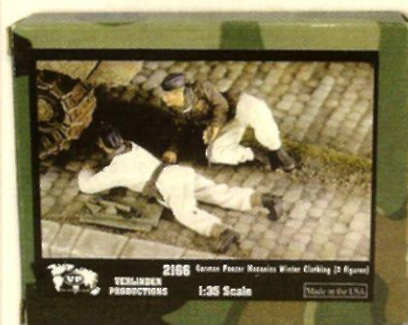
Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk
 10/10 - The Editor



RESCAST
1:35 PARA WITH NO. 18 RADIO
ITEM NO. 35.594

Continuing the theme of Allied airborne troops, Resicast has produced this superb para figure with No.18 wireless set. He comes complete with Sten Gun and is using an ammunition box as a seat. As soon as I saw this figure I started to think of dioramas to build around him, best I watch A Bridge Too Far again!

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk
 10/10 - The Editor



VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS
1:35 GERMAN PANZER
MECHANICS IN WINTER
CLOTHING (2 FIGURES)
ITEM NO. 2166

Another useful set of figures from Verlinden Productions, this set comprises of one mechanic lying in the prone position and the other leaning on his side. Both are dressed in the winter reversible jackets and trousers and I'm sure will be perfect for the mass of German vehicles being released at present.

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk
 9.5/10 - The Editor





References - The up-armoured M1114 HMMWV

This M1114 of 1st Battalion, 77th Armoured Regiment "Steel Tigers" was seen during an IED search patrol on Main Supply Route Tampa near Balad, Iraq, in May 2004. Note the Gunner Shield Kit attached to the weapon station. The M1114 up-armoured HMMWV can protect the crew against 7.62mm small arms ammunition, 155mm splinters from overhead bursts and even contact detonated anti-tank mines up to 12 lbs.



HEAVY HUMVEE

In keeping with our modern theme Ralph Zwilling reports on the up-armoured Humvees in Iraq.

The M1114 up-armoured HMMWV is also known by its nickname "Heavy Humvee". O'Gara - Hess & Eisenhardt, now belonging to the Armour Holdings Aerospace & Defense Group, in Fairfield, Ohio, manufacture the armour for the vehicle. The doors and the crew compartment are fully armoured and offer protection against 7.62mm armour piercing (AP) ammunition at a stand off range of 100 meters. The armour also offers protection against the effects of 155mm splinters from air bursts. The blast protection system of the vehicle protects the crew compartment from a 12 pound contact-detonated anti-tank mine at the front of the vehicle, or a 4 pound contact-detonated mine at the rear. The M1114s also feature operable windows with high light,

transmission transparent armour glass commonly referred to as "white glass". This same glass is used for the windshield assembly to which a de-icing system can be fitted. The armour of the roof assembly is mounted on shock absorbing bushings and is rolled on the edges to overlap the perimeter armour, providing the crew with protection from all possible angles. The 5,489kg M1114 HMMWV, which is based on the M1113 Expanded Capacity Vehicle (ECV) HMMWV, was originally developed by AM General under contract of the U.S. Army in order to provide a vehicle with a greater payload. This was necessary to allow for the heavier armour packages and shelter. To meet the U.S. Armed Forces requirements in performance and mobility, a new General Motors 6,5 litre V-8 turbocharged diesel

engine producing 190hp and with intercooling was installed into the M1113 (ESV) and the HMMWV frame was reinforced. The General Motors 4L 80E automatic transmission has 4-speeds. With the fuel tank holding 94 litres the M1114 has a cruising range of up to 400km.

Other modifications to the M1114 included redesigned differentials, improved half-shafts, a new exhaust system, an improved suspension system, a modified steering system and upgraded wheels. The modification was completed by adding waterproof dual batteries, three point seat belts, high back bucket seats with shock absorbing capability, a large cargo shell door which opens in two directions, a specially designed fuel filler cover preventing unauthorized access, a Central Tyre Inflation System (CTIS) and a

heavy duty air conditioning system. Optionally the M1114 up-armoured HMMWV can also be equipped with a winch mounted behind the front bumper. For U.S. Forces the M1114 up-armoured HMMWV will widely replace the M1025 models as an armament carrier. It can use a wide range of weapons such as the 40mm Mk19 Mod3 Grenade Launcher, the cal.50 M2 Machine Gun, the 7.62mm M240B Machine Gun or even the 5.56mm M249 Squad Automatic Weapon which can be pintle-mounted on the turret assembly located on the roof of the vehicle. These weapons can be accessed through a bi-fold hatch that can be locked in an upright position providing the gunner with limited protection from the rear. ■



▲ A patrol of B Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armoured Regiment, leaves Camp Paliwoda in June 2004. It's important to note that most armoured units received M1114 up-armoured HMMWVs in addition to their tanks for patrol duties. This vehicle is fitted with a 40mm Mk19 Mod.3 Grenade Launcher and a Gunner Shield Kit. Note the front bumper and the Combat Identification Panels (CIPs).

▼ During an IED search patrol, GIs of Task Force I-77 take cover behind their M1114 up-armoured HMMWV. The vehicle is fitted with a 7.62mm M240B machine gun while the soldier in the foreground has a 5.56mm M16A4 rifle with a M68 Close Combat Optic (CCO).

▼ This picture shows a M1114 up-armoured HMMWV of the 95th Military Police Battalion, For Operation Iraqi Freedom 2, the battalion was cross-attached to the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne) of the XVIII Airborne Corps, which is based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Note the three fuel cans strapped to the rear and the marking on the Gunner Shield.





References - The up-armoured M1114 HMMWV



▲ Belonging to a Special Operations Force Psychological Operations unit, this M1114 up-armoured HMMWV has a loudspeaker system mounted on its roof. During missions such as "Knock and Search" or anti-riot mission, the loudspeaker is used to inform the local population about what is happening or to give them instructions. This vehicle was seen at LSA Anaconda in June 2004.

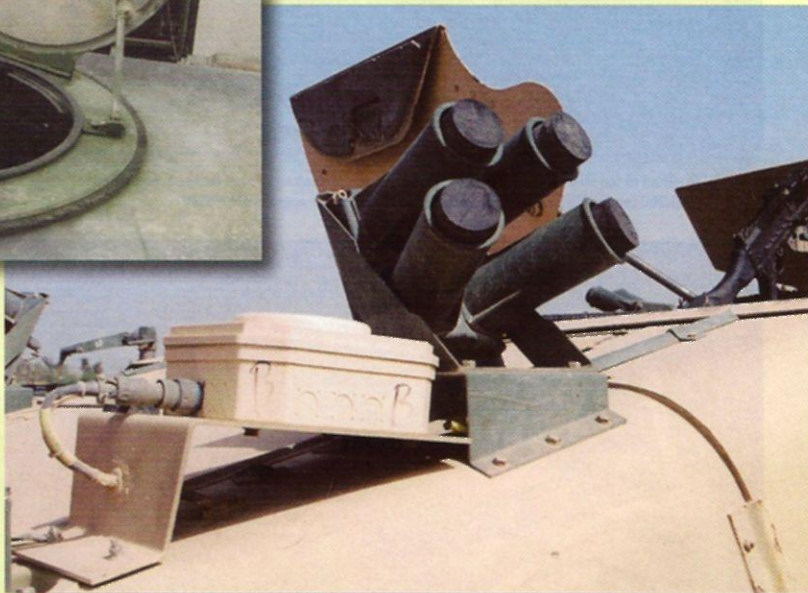
▼ While the manufacturer claims that the M1114 up-armoured HMMWV offers its crew all-around protection, these pictures tell quite a different story. The sand coloured vehicle was probably hit by a RPG round, while the other one was a victim of an Improvised Explosive Device.





▲ Depending on the mission the M1114 up-armoured HMMWV can be fitted with various weapons. This vehicle of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne) is armed with a 40mm Mk19 Mod3 Grenade Launcher.

▼ Some vehicles are equipped with the Light Vehicle Obscuration Smoke System (LVOSS) which is a self-defence smoke/obscurant device externally mounted on the host vehicle. The LVOSS is made of lightweight materials and has a push button Arming/Firing Unit allowing the operator to select the direction he needs obscured. This picture shows a M6 grenade launcher and the FBCB2 antenna.



▼ Most M1114 up-armoured HMMWVs used in Iraq or Afghanistan have been already equipped with the I131b Gunner Shield Kit (GSK) providing frontal protection and a M197 weapon cradle mount for various weapons like machine guns and grenade launchers.



▲ This picture shows the deep water fording kit and the righthand mirror in detail.

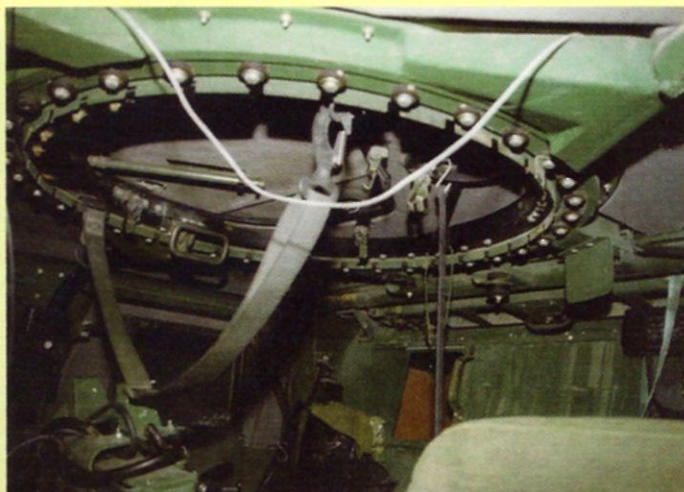




References - The up-armoured M1114 HMMWV



▲ The front of the M1114 up-armoured HMMWV in detail. The Department of Defense pays about \$140,300 for the M1114 in contrast to the \$64,800 for an un-armoured HMMWV



▲ Interior detailing of the roof hatch. Note the large number of securing bolts around the circumference and the webbing strap used as a seat by the gunner when manning the hatch.



▲ This soldier operates the new Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade-and-Below (FBCB2) installed in a M1114 up-armoured HMMWV. The FBCB2 provide situational awareness and command-and-control to the lowest echelons. It facilitates a seamless flow of battle command information across the battle space and inter-operates with external command-and-control and sensor systems.

▼ All four doors are fully armoured with 7.62mm AP perimeter protection at a 100m standoff. They also feature operable windows with high light, transmission transparent armour glass commonly referred to as "white glass".



▲ The mount for the various Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINGARS) is located between the driver and the vehicle commander.



▲ The rear blower assembly located behind the rear left passenger seat blows cool air from the rear of the passenger compartment when the A/C On/Off switch is on and fan switch is on high. Note the intercom system, belonging to the SINGCARS radios, attached to the vehicles roof.



▲ The rear crew compartment in detail. Note the ammunition box racks for three 40mm ammo boxes and the fire extinguisher.



▲ This M1114 up-armored HMMWV is equipped with a Blue Force Tracking System and an AN/PSN-II Portable Lightweight GPS Receiver (PLGR). The AN/PSN-II PLGR is a small, handheld, Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver featuring selective availability/anti-spoofing (SA/A-S) and anti-jam capability. It provides precise positioning and timing solutions based upon signals received from the GPS satellite constellation.



▲ The M1114 up-armored HMMWV drivers station in detail. On the right side of the drivers seat are the parking break lever, the transfer case shift lever and the transmission shift lever.



Incoming

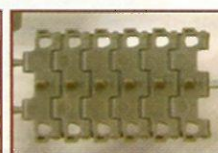
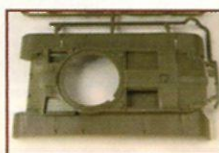
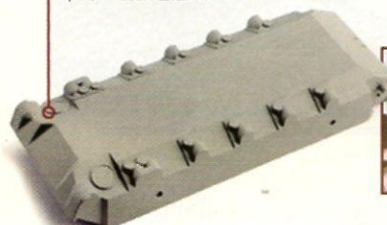


TAMIYA

1:48 M26 PERSHING
ITEM NO.32537

Tamiya's new Pershing is essentially a scaled down version of its 1:35 scale brother and as usual per normal Tamiya have supplied a metal lower hull. This time plastic outer panels are attached to the metal hull sides, and these parts contain all of the detail for the suspension components. Parts fit is excellent as expected. Tracks are of the link and length type, but unfortunately do suffer from ejection pin marks on every other link. Markings are included for three tanks, two for World War II and one from Korea. Available from all good model shops.

9/10 - The Editor



VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS

1:48 ARMoured RAILCAR
ITEM NO. TBA

I think this armoured rail car is really cool. The only down side is that the main body of the wagon is cast as a single solid lump of resin, which I think could prove costly for anyone who has to purchase one via mail order it as it certainly is a hefty piece of resin. This aside it is a really neat looking model that's just crying out for an imaginative camo scheme and will be a great canvas for anyone wanting to have fun with some weathering. As usual Verlinden's casting is faultless and detail is nice and crisp, and as I'm writing this I want to get this on my workbench and start sticking the thing together and go mad with the weathering pigments.

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk

8.5/10 - The Editor



MIG PRODUCTIONS

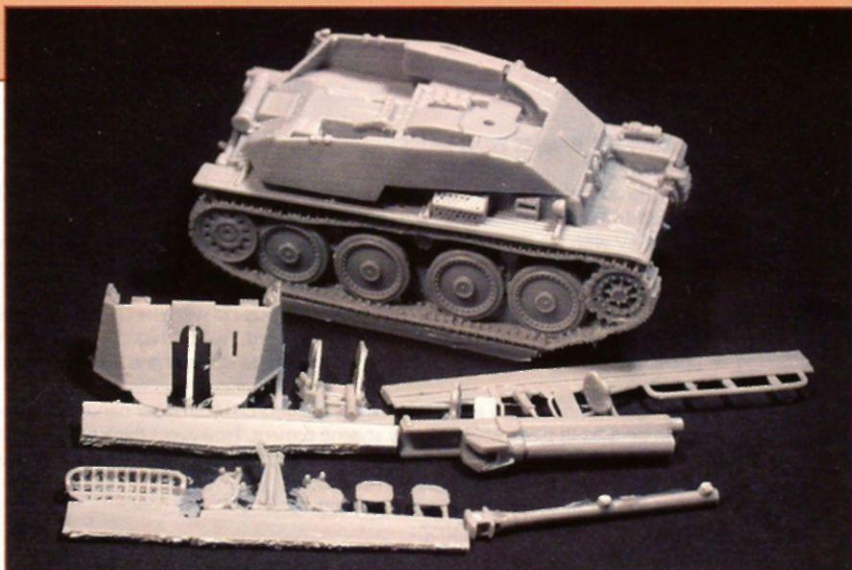
1:35 STRIPED METAL DRUMS (12 PIECES)
ITEM NO. MP35-109

1:35 PLASTIC CHEMICAL DRUMS (12 PIECES)
ITEM NO. MP35-110

These two sets may not be the latest items from Mig Productions, but they are new to us. Again as with the recoilless rifle the more modern accessories we have the better in my opinion. Both these items are such a part of modern life we don't even notice them. Both are flawlessly cast and will be great for adding interest to any appropriate diorama or filling up the cargo bed of a modern truck for example. Items like this are also great for adding some much needed colour to any project without looking out of place.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models

10/10 - The Editor



CROMWELL MODELS

1:72 COMBAT 72 MARDER III

New to the ever expanding range of Cromwell's Combat Ready scale range is the German Marder III. Based on the Czech Panzer 38t chassis and armed with captured Russian 7.62cm on a new superstructure over 300 of these vehicles were used from North Africa to the Eastern Front.

Unlike most of the Combat Ready kits which contain at most 4 or 5 parts the Marder III has 17 parts as it is an open topped SPG. Moulded in Cromwell's new grey resin the kit contains the hull, the gun and fittings, the seats and a nicely moulded rear basket. The parts are all nicely moulded and with a little clean up will produce a fine kit. The only big pieces of resin to remove are found on the bottom of the tracks however if you are putting the kit on a base then you could easily hide them or you could use the editors technique of placing the hull on a sheet of sandpaper and use a figure of 8 motion to remove the excess resin.

Another good addition to a growing range of highly detailed easy to build kits, aimed at either wargamers or those who wish to quickly build a large collection and spend more time on painting than building. Recommended.

Available from Cromwell models

8/10 - Graeme Carruthers



LIFECOLOR

CAMOUFLAGE PAINT SET FOR ITALIAN ARMOUR

Continuing Lifecolor's box sets of acrylic paints is this latest set of six colours designed to match perfectly the colours used by the Italian Army during World War II. As with all the Lifecolor range these spray beautifully and also give a very good first coat coverage when brush painting. These will be perfect for anyone wanting the correct colours for painting any of the new Italeri Italian armour being released at present.

Available from The Airbrush Company and Cammett

10/10 - The Editor



Friendship Models

New Releases



Legend Productions

LF1136: IDF Magach 6 MEM Conv
(For any M60).....£34.99
LF1135: 1/35 M31 ARV Conv. (For
Academy M3 Lee).....£34.99

Legend Productions 1/35:

LF1133: M3 Lee Detailing Set.....£24.99
LF1127: M48A2GA2 Conv.....£49.99
LF1116: Sherman Stowage.....£14.99
LF1106: Merkava Mk2D Conv.....£69.99
LF1048: Magach 7C Conv.....£34.99
LF1105: Sherman ARV Mk1 Conv.....£22.99
LF1066: IDF Merkava MKIII Block III Turret
Was £24.99Now £19.99

Coming Soon From Desert Eagle Publications:

IDF Armour Series No2: Merkava III (part 1)
.....£TBA

Formations 1/35

FO68: M3 Solid Roadwheels w/Idlers..£7.99
FO69: Quick Fix Suspension For Academy
M3 Lee.....£11.99
FO70: M3 Lee Suspension Set.....£19.99
FO71: M4 105mm Conv.....£46.99
FO71B: M4 105mm Sherman 1b British Parts
(For use with FO71).....£9.99

New Ranges Coming Soon:

Blicz Models

Solarwind Fantasy Figures

See website for further updates

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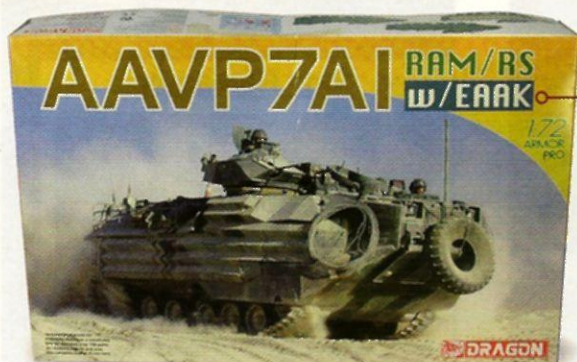
Web: www.friendshipmodels.com

Ebay Shop:

<http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Friendship-Models>

Visitors to premises by appointment only.





DRAGON

**1:72 AAVP7A1 RAM/RS WITH EAAK
ITEM NO.7233**

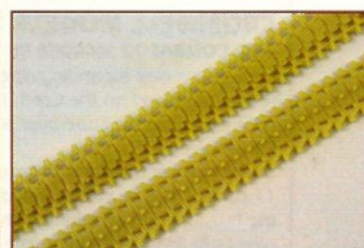
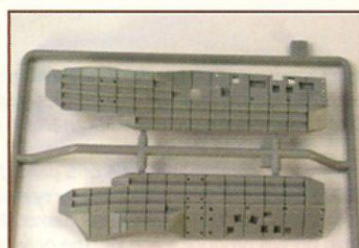
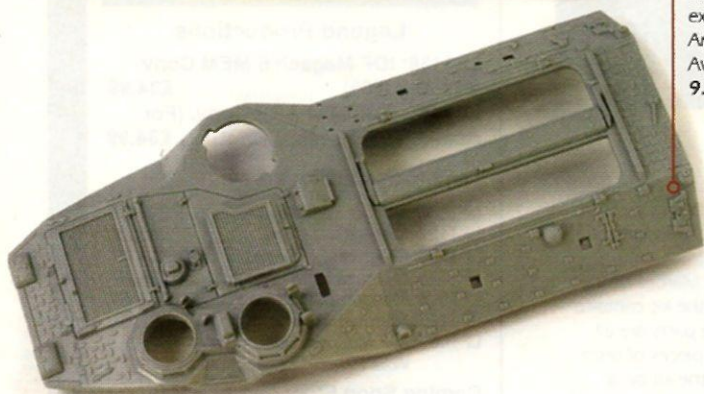
At last, the version of the USMCs AAV7 fans of small scale modern armour have been waiting for! Dragon's previous releases of this vehicle have included the basic AAV7 and the AAV with the EAAK armour mounting points but no armour, well at last the version which does include the extra armour. The kit is the same as the other version but with the addition of the extra sprue containing the side armour parts and the lower hull suspension inserts to replace the original suspension set-up with the upgraded Bradley type with return rollers. Four decal options are included, two for USMC vehicles involved in operations in Iraq 2005, one for the Republic of Korea Marines and lastly one from the Italian Marines.

Dragon has also included a set of their highly detailed DS100 rubber band style tracks that can be fixed in place with ordinary styrene cement. However I think the best thing Dragon has included is a small etched fret containing all the supplemental roof armour, exhaust guard and some very tiny grab handles.

Another superb kit to spoil any small scale modeller.

Available from All good model shops

9.5/10 - The Editor

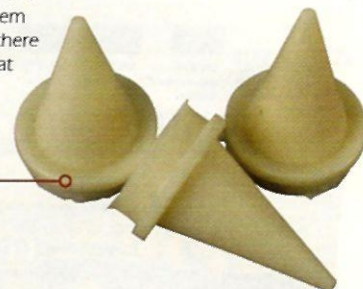


MIG PRODUCTIONS

**1:35 ROAD TRAFFIC CONES
ITEM NO. MP35-277**

The last of the items we have received from those busy guys in Spain are these modern traffic cones. Twelve are included in the pack but unfortunately they don't really look anything like the real ones on the box top photo. The ones included in the set are stubby little cones with circular base plates where as the ones in the photo are much taller and have a square base. I know this may seem rather a trivial detail but I'm sure there will be a cone expert out there that will be losing sleep now! Distributed in the UK by Creative Models

8/10 - The Editor



MIG PRODUCTIONS

**1:35 SOVIET B-11 RECOILLESS RIFLE
ITEM NO. MP35-268**

As seen in last issue's article on the UNIMOG, it's great to see modern armour fans aren't being left out. We really are being spoilt of late with some amazing accessories, detail sets and vehicles we could only have dreamt of a short while ago. The detail on this diminutive weapon is excellent and I'm pretty sure this will prove the perfect item for filling a corner of many a modern diorama scene.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models

10/10 - The Editor



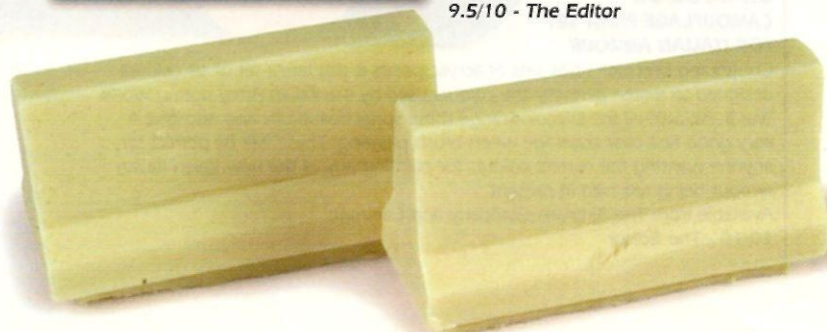
MIG PRODUCTIONS

**1:35 CONCRETE BARRIERS
ITEM NO. MP35-275**

Eight nicely detailed and cast barrier sections are included in this set, perfect for most modern diorama scenes.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models

9.5/10 - The Editor



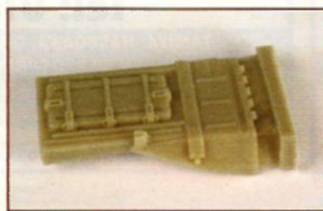


VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS

1:35 T-72 HULL (TAMIYA) ITEM NO.2333

At first I thought this was going to be a complete single piece replacement hull for the Tamiya T-72, well to my surprise on opening the box was a mass of separate parts and not a single piece casting as I was expecting. These parts have all been puddle cast, which means that an awful lot of resin will need to be removed from the back of each part before they can be assembled. The parts are all beautifully detailed as we have come to expect from Verlinden, unfortunately I think this update could prove more trouble than it will be worth! Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk

6.5/10 - The Editor



CALIBRE

1:48 EARLY WAR OPEL BLITZ ITEM NO. 48003

Calibre has released an Opel Blitz of which some 25,000 were produced during World War 2. The kit represents an early war example as it has the early six hole hub design as well as a few other early war modifications.

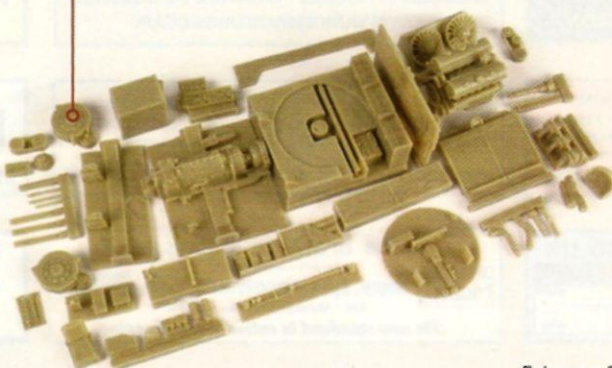
The kit has 56 very well cast light yellow and grey green parts with a small clear sheet that has the windows and headlights printed on to it to make their cut out and removal easy. Include also is a small etch set which includes various items like the windscreen wipers, number plates and rear vision mirrors.

The quality of the resin casting is first class and has no air bubbles or warpage of any kind. The wooden cargo tray and sidewalls are of particular note as they have been rendered in a very subtle and effective way. The instructions are simple yet effective and should provide no challenges in parts placement. My only criticism (and a very minor one at that) is the tyres seem a little fat for an early example of the Blitz, other than that the overall package is first class.

One can only hope Calibre will produce a mid to late war example with mid to late war hubs which was more common in photographic records. Resin casting doesn't come much better than this and for the 1:48 armour (and even our 1:48 aircraft friends) this is a welcome addition.

Available www.hannants.co.uk

8.5/10 - Luke Pitt



VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS

1:35 PANZER IV INTERIOR DETAIL SET (DRAGON) ITEM NO.2324

Verlinden has provided a very comprehensive interior set designed for Dragon's series of Panzer IVs. This set comprises a full fighting compartment interior and fairly complete engine bay, including a very well detailed Maybach engine. As this is a very comprehensive set I would think it would be better suited to the more experienced modeller who is armed with some extra reference to turn this from a comprehensive set to a complete one.

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk

6.5/10 - The Editor

Coming Soon...

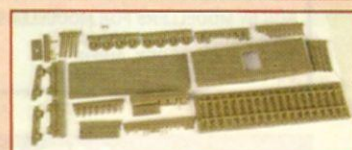
VERLINDEN

On the way soon from Verlinden are these resin kits and conversion sets, they include:

Item no. 2331 1:48 German 88mm Pak 43 anti tank gun

Item no. TBA 1:72 Flat bed rail car

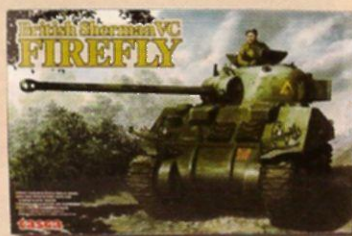
Item no. TBA 1:48 Panther coelian turret conversion



TASCA

BRITISH SHERMAN FIREFLY VC

Just as we were about to go to print the much anticipated Firefly has arrived on our desk, and opening the box I can say it looks very good indeed. The one area that I noticed above all else is that the lower hull tub is made up from separate panels and not a single part as we have become used to with most other manufacturers. More next time!

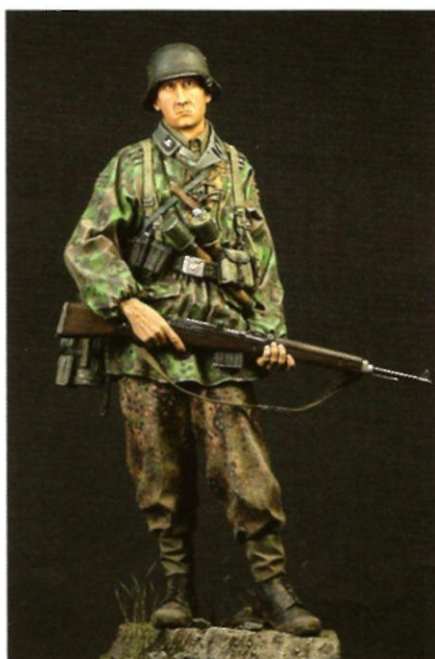


Next Issue

On sale February 1st 2007

LENINGRAD

Mike Tooth describes how he built his stunning 1:48 diorama using both old and new kits in this increasingly popular scale.



AND LOVING IT...

Matt Wellhouser explains how he built and painted P&J Designs incredibly realistic 150mm SS Grenadier figure.

MINE PLOUGH

Andy King turns Tamiya's T55 into a mean looking mechanical monster with the addition of Skif's KMT-6 mine plough.

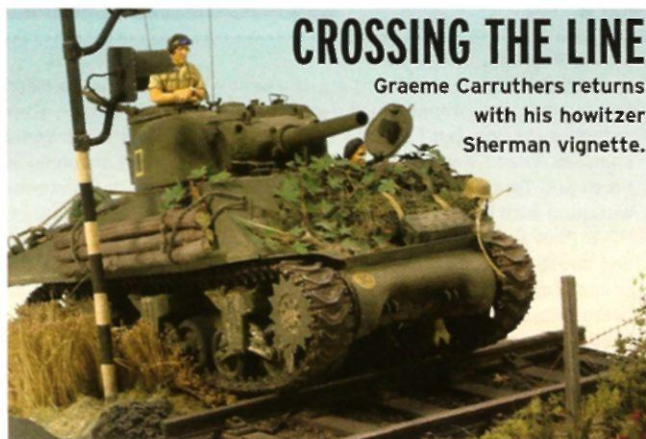


FOR YOUR SAFETY



Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



CROSSING THE LINE

Graeme Carruthers returns with his howitzer Sherman vignette.

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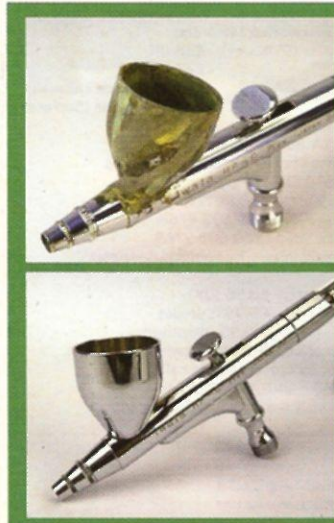
SCALE MODEL WORLD 2006

TELFORD, ENGLAND.



This year's show was my first in the privileged position of Editor of MMI, and it has been humbling to hear so much positive feedback. Generally speaking, the most vocal group are those who like to complain, because as a nation we tend to say nothing if we are happy, well I hope that's the case... It was at this show that Alan (the boss) said a chap had been looking for me to talk about the fire extinguishers on my Sherman Firefly from Issue two, which was on display at our stand. I unfortunately missed this gentleman on the Saturday but luckily he was waiting at the stand on the Sunday morning when we arrived. He proceeded to tell me that the extinguishers mounted on the rear deck would not be orange

as they would be too bright and a German sniper would spot them! Up to a point I can understand the theory about them not being very tactical, but I copied the colour from the ones fitted to the Humber scout car at the Bovington Tank Museum and secondly, if the sniper had only spotted the thirty ton Sherman clanking towards him because the fire extinguishers were painted orange, he really should have gone to Spec Savers. The comment that threw me the most was that this chap knew what he was talking about because he was involved in the film A Bridge Too Far! Now correct me if I'm wrong but wasn't this the film where they used HVSS Shermans as Fireflies and a Leopard 1 masquerading as a Panther...? ■



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Liquid Reamer

I will be the first to admit I'm not the best when it comes to cleaning and looking after my airbrush. I do religiously give it a clean after each spraying session, but I guess I never take the time I should. Well that all changed when I went to spray up another helicopter I probably won't finish and Tamiya's 1:48 Pershing. My good friend Paul Egerton was watching with the intention of me showing him how simple my Iwata HP-C Plus airbrush was to use, but as usual Murphy's Law kicked in and chose to be the time my precision engineered airbrush decided it couldn't cope with my abuse any longer! Well thankfully I still had the Iwata airbrush sets to review with me and included in these sets was a product called Liquid Reamer. The instructions said that the reamer was perfect for removing dried and gummed paint, so I partially stripped the brush and gave it a good blast with the aerosol based product, and it was at this point we both stared in amazement at how much gunk and goop (technical terms) came flooding from the innards of the airbrush. So to cut a long story short my Iwata is spotless and this product to me was a real lifesaver.

Available from The Airbrush Company and Cammett.

www.airbrushes.com

www.cammett.co.uk



1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

M2A1

Half-Track

2 in 1

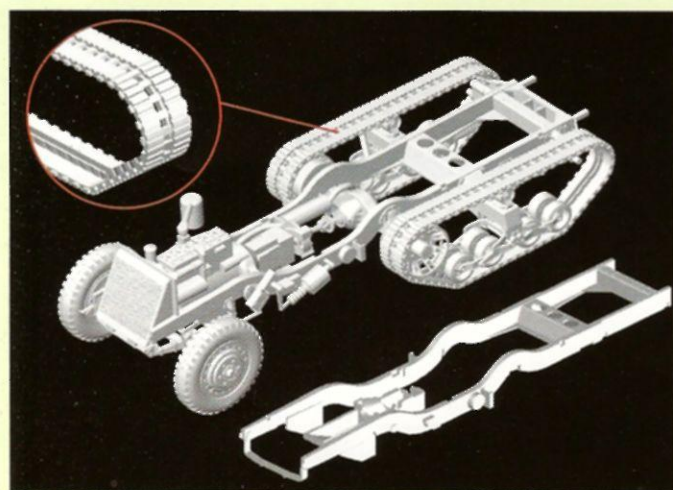
Smart
Kit

Engineered for modeling enjoyment

Plastic parts with enhanced detail

Unprecedented value

Ready for instant assembly!



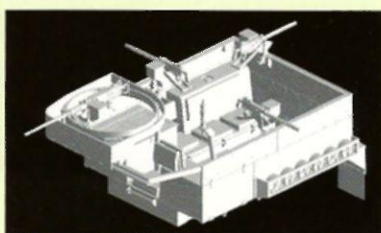
- Full drive train assembly complete with engine transmission, differential housing and suspension units
- First kit ever to have accurate rubber track modeled with center guide band
- One-piece chassis frame with correct details



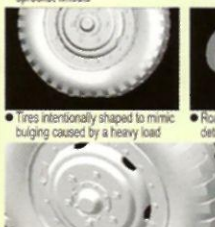
- Super-detailed multi-direction slide-molded sprocket wheels



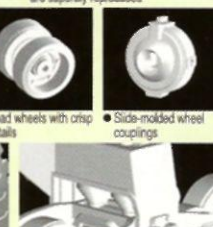
- Multi-direction slide-molded idler wheels are superbly reproduced



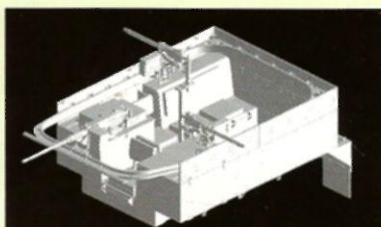
- M2A1 compartment arrangement accurately modeled with internal radio details



- Tires intentionally shaped to mimic bulging caused by a heavy load



- Road wheels with crisp details



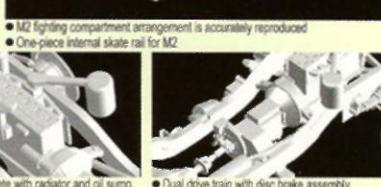
- Side-molded wheel couplings



- Hubcaps with superb details



- Bogie assembly with internal spring detail



- M2 fighting compartment arrangement is accurately reproduced



- Differential housing comes with bolt and rib details



- Steering mechanism in full detail



- Spring suspension is reproduced well



- Engine complete with radiator and oil sump



- Dual drive train with disc brake assembly



- Two types of headlights with corresponding light guards



- Armored front grill with accurate bolt details can be modeled in two modes; bonus individual photo-etched slats available for the open mode



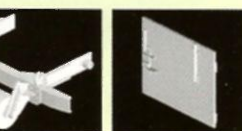
- Front hook mount is reproduced by photo-etched parts



- Winch assembly especially for M2A1



- Front roller specifically for M2



- Detailed cab doors with interior details



- Engine hood with detailed bolt and hinges



- Front window armor can be assembled open/closed; includes finely molded struts



- Front windshield made with clear parts



- Photo-etched visors for armored window covers



- Detailed dashboard instrument panel



- Top half of cab doors can be assembled in swing-down position



- Interior fuel tank with cap



- M49 armored ring mount for M2A1



- Side armor of body with realistic bolts and details



- Rear tow hook is fully detailed



- 50-cal MG mount is mounted to side with photo-etched strap



- Rear mud flaps made from photo-etched parts



- Side panel gun mount for MG is finely rendered



- MG rail mount is finely produced



- Jerry cans with delicate strap details



- One-piece exhaust and muffler



- One-piece external mine rack with built-in mines for M2A1



- Sharply reproduced on-vehicle tools



- Two types of antenna mount for M2A1 and M2 respectively

www.dragon-models.com e-mail: info@dragon-models.com

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by: The Hobby Company, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
Dragon models are available from all good model shops

6329

Long outmatched against German armor in World War II, the U.S. army finally evened the odds with the deployment of the M26 Pershing in February 1945. Capable of taking out Tiger tanks at a range of 820m with its powerful M3 90mm gun, the Pershing was also well defended by its 102mm thick armor plating. Tamiya's model reproduces all the detail of the original tank on a compact 1/48 scale, without sacrificing any of the quality and ease of assembly that is the hallmark of our brand. The model accurately captures the long-barreled main gun, distinctive cast turret and ship bottom shaped lower hull. Like all the tanks in our 1/48 MM Series, the Pershing features assembly type tracks with straight sections made of a single link for easy assembly, as well as a diecast chassis for added weight and realism. 3 types of decals are included, allowing depiction of "Fireball" of the 3rd Armored Division, which was knocked out by a Tiger I on Feb. 26, 1945, as well as units serving in the Korean War.



**1/48
MM**
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

U.S. Medium Tank
M26 Pershing (T26E3)
(Item 32537)

A COMMANDING PRESENCE

1/48 U.S. MEDIUM TANK M26 PERSHING & RUSSIAN HEAVY TANK KV-2



Russian Heavy Tank
KV-2 Gigant (Item 32538)

Towering over 3 meters high, and featuring almost unbelievable proportions, the Russian KV-2 tank is instantly recognizable for its gigantic, box-shaped turret designed to house the huge 152mm howitzer. The KV-2 featured thick armor that rendered it immune to everything but artillery and aircraft fire, and was capable of posing a formidable threat to the invading Germans. In order to faithfully replicate this unique vehicle down to the last detail, Tamiya designers conducted on-the-spot research on the sole remaining KV-2 tank, located at the Museum of the Red Army in Moscow. The accurately depicted 152mm gun and monster-sized turret can swivel freely, allowing a range of display options. An amazing level of detail captures the hull rivets and weld marks, along with exterior mounted equipment. The diecast chassis adds the heavy weight appropriate to a tank that weighed as much as 52 tons in real life, while the top section of the assembly type tracks features realistic slack effect.

1/48 Military Miniature Series — A Growing World of Modeling Possibilities



Russian Heavy Tank KV-1 (32535)



BRITISH SHERMAN IC FIREFLY (32532)



German King Tiger "Production Turret" (32536)



Volkswagen Type 82E Staff Car
(32531)



6x4 Truck Krupp Protze (Kfz.70)
(32534)



German Aircraft Power Supply Unit
& Kettenkrafttraktor (32533)
(Airplane not included)



Citroën Traction 11CV Staff Car
(32517)

New Releases!



German King Tiger
"Porsche Turret" (32539)



German Sturmgeschütz III Ausf. G
Early Version
(32540)



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